

January 4, 1941.

At Holy Communion He permitted me to see the patrons of Sister Mary Catherine's soul. I realized that it was at the moment of her conception that the Eternal Father in a particular way made her His own child and by His own love espoused her to His divine Son. At the same time He made St. Catherine of Sienna the guardian of this espousal that this love would be kept pure for Our Lord as hers had been. He also permitted me to see that at the age of about twelve Our Blessed Mother became in a special manner patroness of her soul, and at the time of her entrance into religion Our Father Founder was given to her as a special patron. Besides her guardian angel her soul has continually been shielded by a seraph.

J. M. J.

Our Lady Acad.
Mantova, Ill.
Jan. 12, 1941.

Dear Father Aloysius,

Sr. M. Mediatrix

thought it well that I suggest
your going to see Rev. Mather
about St. Monica but to do
so at such time and in
such wise that you do
not betray the suggestion.

I brought back St. Sebastian's
message regarding her prep-
aration and St. M. Ursula's
answer which I shall enclose.
The small crucifix I always
held while writing my thesis
was blessed for this work.
The Sacred Heart appeared
with the four evangelists who

were kneeling in prayer. His hands were open but held close to His Sacred Heart. From His Heart come rays of love and touch which seemed to flow into the evangelists and thence them into the crucifix as though He would impart to it the same spirit that animates them in their writing of the gospel.

Sister M. M. enjoyed the visit of the Holy Family during meditation and this afternoon when we said the prayer to the Holy Family and Rev. Father gave Our Father's blessing. He (Our Father) stood beside the statue of the Holy Family and blessed us all.

S. M. M. has no strength but is sustained and cheerful.

I did not tell S. M. Ursula that I sent you the message, but I thought you would want to know it before hand. I am not going to Burnsville this week.

Sincerely
S. M. Catherine

Feast of the Holy Family,
January 12, 1941.

It is His desire that Sr. M. Ursula make a vow of greater perfection, under pain of imperfection, and that she make a preparation of three months in honor of the Blessed Trinity.

By the vow of greater perfection He desires a complete conformity and abandonment to whatever His Providence ordains in the round of daily duties by the circumstances He creates; the loving accomplishment of His holy will moment by moment without any anxiety as to failure or success to the end that a peace and tranquility be maintained in her soul that she may thereby become united to Him praying and offering herself with Him, and in Him and by Him to

Conditions of Vow

I make this Vow under imperfection in accordance with the desires of the Sacred Heart. It is to replace my Vow of Charity but includes the practice of this virtue in a more perfect way. Charity must and will be a special point in my life, for "Charity is the bond of perfection".

In the observance of this Vow of Greater Perfection I will exercise myself in the great disposition of soul stressed by St. Theresa - "self-forgetfulness, contempt for things created, and an immense desire for the Greater Glory of God", avoiding the danger of running after "little lizards" - yet maintaining a constant fidelity in little things. I will yield myself fully to the inspirations of grace, and in a spirit of Absolute Faith submit all things to my director who will determine what is most perfect. I will consider as the most perfect only what he confirms to me as such.

St. Theresa so modified her Vow and as a measure of prudence it is my desire to do so also. This, too, will help to keep me in a spirit of childlike dependence, Holy Abandonment and Trust, and seems most in accord with the manifest desire of the Sacred Heart.

*Blessed by the Sacred Heart
Feast of the Holy Family*

January 13, 1941

Rev. Alloysius ^{so many miseries} Collaure, P.M.F.

GLORIA TRINITATI

In the Name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

In the presence of my Immaculate
Mother Mary, of my Guardian Angel,
of my holy patron, Saint Theresa,
and of all the Heavenly Court, I,
Sister Mary of the Precious Blood
make to Thee, O my Adorable Trinity,
through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
forever the Vow of Greater Perfection—
to do always in a spirit of Absolute
Faith what is most conducive to Thy
Greater Glory. Amen.

Gloria Patri (3 times)

ACT OF HOLY ABANDONMENT

O Most Blessed Trinity I abandon
myself wholly to Thee through the
Immaculate Heart of Mary in child-
like trust; and in union with Mary,
I echo my "Ecce Ancilla Domini" for
anything it shall please Thee to
ordain or permit. Amen.

J. M. J.

HOLY FAMILY ACADEMY
BEAVERVILLE, ILLINOIS

Jan 17/40

Reverend Father Alayns:- My sincere thanks for your nice letter of sympathy on the occasion of our Very Rev. Father General's death. I appreciate your prayers very much and those of your Community. I too, am praying that the primitive spirit may be kept by the successor for I feel that the day a modern spirit will creep in our Congregation, it will lose its spirit of simplicity and fervor.

May I ask your prayers for the success
of our mid winter retreat from Jan 18-25th.
This will be my annual retreat, so please
ask God it may be fruitful first for my
own personal sanctification and secondly
for the benefit of the souls confided to
my care - that I may draw them close
to God thru the Holy Spirit.

May I ask you to pray especially for
one soul, whom I wish to reach.
She will make the retreat but I am
convinced that nothing but prayer and
penance can do the work. I am

HOLY FAMILY ACADEMY
BEAVERVILLE, ILLINOIS

interesting various persons to pray for short intentions.

I am inclosing ³ for mass intentions for souls in purgatory to obtain vocations. So far, prospects for the entrance of February are not so good.

Dear Father, I wish to profit of this opportunity to thank you for the wonderful spiritual help you are giving our Sisters. The work of the Holy Spirit is visible and we can not

help but say: "God's ways are wonderful." I had hoped for an opportunity to talk to you, but since it has not been God's good pleasure to offer it, I leave it in His Providence. He knows best. The loss of our Superior General is a very big one for me, for I felt she knew our Province with its problems and also each member. She was my support and guide. In such trials we must turn to God in loving and trustful confidence for He directs all for His greater glory and the good of those concerned. Again, accept my grateful and respectful wishes. Yours in Mary's love, Emily Pro. Sup.

Our Lady Academy

Manteno, Illinois

January 19, 1941.

Reverend Aloysius Ellacuria
St. Jude Seminary
Momence, Illinois

Dear Reverend Father:

I enclose copy of message received from Sister Mary Mediatrix last evening. In the event you wish the joy of reading the original I have it and shall be permitted to keep it until February 2nd.

May I ask you to please unite with me in thanking the Infinitely Holy God for His Goodness toward one who were it not for the All-Merciful Love would find her place among the reprobate. God is so good - there just isn't anything more to say. I can only yield myself to the wondrous work of the Divine Artisan. Please pray for me, - may the wisdom of His Divine Love be yours.

Respectfully,

S. Mary

J. M. J.

Holy Family Academy
Beaverville, Illinois
February 12, 1941

Dominus tecum!
Reverend Father:

Last Saturday Rev. Mother returned here, and told me of her visit with you at St. Mary's and of your request. Sunday morning after Holy Communion I asked Jesus if He would mind if you resumed coming regularly again. He prefers the sacrifice, Father, which He told me would effect more good for souls than all else that might be done, for that is what He desires and wills in our regard and His Will is our sanctification. Unless our holiness be in Him, how can we bear Him to souls? He must live His Adorable Will or His gifts are without fruit. What matters it if we be without consolation, if He has the complete joy of our whole hearted aban-

donement to His good pleasure! The nearer He draws me to Himself the more I realize the great apostolate of the hidden life. It is God within us we must adore. Our enthusiasm must carry us to the point of utter annihilation rather than to seeking the extraordinary. Jesus has given me such light and strength on this point that I feel urged to express it to all religious and priestly souls. But that will come!!

Would you, then, find it convenient to come for my pre-lenten confession which Jesus approved when you came last time, on next Tuesday Feb. 18th? I am anxiously looking forward to it for my heart of is full! Will you please unite with me in a special prayerful preparation? At Communion this morning Jesus told me to tell you to be daringly truthful and very firm with Sr. Aimee. Until you come, let us trust in Him Who is our All!

"In sim Patris"

Sr. Mary Mediatrix

St. Alphonsus Hospital
Boise, Idaho

Rev. Aloysius Collauria C.M.F.

Febr. 13th. 41

My Dear Rev. Brother in Christ.

Many thanks for kind letter and lovely

Badges endowed with so many blessings and inestimable
favours, my sincere thanks and appreciation to You
and dear Sister Mediatrix for Your kind thoughtfulness
to me, I distributed the Badges among my Neices and relatives
with directions as You sent me namely the gifts and blessings
attached, as well as asked their prayers for Your intentions

I will dear Father make every effort to be worthy of the
favours, or what ever Our dear Lord wants me to do
for Him, I will keep strict silence, for love of Him as well
as many acts of mortification, and self denial as I possibly
can, along with visits to the Chapel, more frequent during Lent
I will also make a Novena in honor of the Passion of our Lord
through Our Lady of Sorrows, for You Your Seminary and for
dear Sister, when ever You see her You may tell her, in
appreciation for all You both ^{have} so kindly done for me
when You write again You may tell me anything You
wish as Your letter is handed to me unopened

ST. PATRICK ACADEMY

MOMENCE, ILLINOIS

Feb. 14, 1941.

Rev. Father Aloysius,
St. Jude Seminary,
Momence, Illinois.

Rev. dear Father:

Enclosed you will find the copy of the retreat notes which I took of the children's retreat. In justice to Father Croarkin, I feel that I should remind you that these are merely notes and not the full text of Father's sermons. In some cases I have amplified them in re-writing them but they contain the main thoughts and ideas; and in so far as possible, Father's own words. However, to appreciate him fully, one must hear him in person. I have offered the time I spent in rearranging and typing the notes for your intention.

In the little booklet of verse compiled by Father Croarkin, the poems which are listed without an author's name were written by Father himself. Madre Mia - page 54 is especially beautiful.

Gratefully yours in Him

Sister Mary Dolores

+

Ave Cor Mariae Immaculatum.
CLARETIAN MISSIONARIES
ST. JUDE'S SEMINARY
MOMENCE, ILL.



February 18, 1941.

Dear Sister Mary Mediatrix:

Please, do ask the Immaculate Heart of Our Blessed Mother all that I should do during this coming Lent.

A perfect observance according to the laws of the Church without exaggeration so as to be an example that all can follow. Devote yourself especially to life in the Seminary seeking the obscurity of Christ's hidden life and adoring Him by an intense interior life drawing the boy to the same.

Sr. Mary Mediatrix

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Ave Cor Mariae Immaculatum.
CLARETIAN MISSIONARIES
ST. JUDE'S SEMINARY
MOMENCE, ILL.

©

February 18, 1941.

Dear Sister Mary Mediatrix:

Do request from His Divine Majesty for me
the following graces.

The very fullness of the spirit of my Father
Founder Blessed Anthony Mary Claret that I may be his
reflection....

Your Founder looks upon you
with complacency as his beloved
son because you do reflect his
spirit and he intercedes continuously
for your faultless fidelity.

That I may be a living copy of the Holy Consti-
tutions and Traditions of my Claretian Congregation...

Granted in accordance with the
above.

The number and the order of my Patron Saints.

at the time
of birth { Guardian Angel and a Seraph
Beloved Disciple St. John
St. Joseph
St. Aloysius

On last feast of our Bl. Mother's Espousals Mary
took you under her protection in a special
manner.

Sr. Mary Mediatrix

St. Alphonsus Hospital

Boise, Idaho

J. M. J.

Feb. 19th. 1941

Rev. Aloysius Collacchia C.M.F.

Rev. Dear Father.

as the holy season of Lent will soon be here, I must get these few lines to You, to thank You for Your good prayers, and many blessings in my behalf.

I want to assure You that I will remember You and all Your intentions, in a special way during the holy season of Lent. and also Your Saintly little Sister. I'm sure You are happy of this great privilege in being chosen to be the director of this Saintly soul as well as the immense blessings that she will obtain for You in return.

Dear Father when You see her again please ask her to pray for a financial difficulty for this Hospital it is urgent.

Thanking You for Your good prayers and blessings

I am greatly Yours in J. M. J.

Sister M. Mildeida

J. M. J.

February 25, 1941

Dominus tecum!

Reverend Father:

It seems as if our dear Lord urges me to write to you in His name and assure you of His love for your soul. The sufferings you are enduring now are the very expression of that Divine Love that so longs to have you completely One with Him - not in the joys of Thabor but in complete conformity to His adorable Will. Surely we should appreciate mystical graces but our appreciation should be expressed by a greater fidelity to the duties of our state in life. Only in this way can we be sure of pleasing Jesus and not simply gratifying our self love. There is nothing harder to bear than the sacrifice of Divine consolations, but did He not tell His apostles, "I must go, or the Paraclete will not come, etc." They had to become detached from Jesus - from His human presence - from the joy of His speaking to them in order to give fulness to His life within them - to be guided by the Holy Spirit, the Life of their souls! He knows as well what is good for us and what will glorify the Father! It is not always the things we consider the most perfect that give Him joy and consolation but our loving acceptance of ^{what} His Providence ordains for us. God would not be obliged to give us special or mystical graces to exhort us to renew our

fervor and be courageous in His service if we were always faithful to do His Will. to do the things that please Him. That is why their main effect should be to stimulate us to a greater fidelity to our state in life. Love will incline us to desire such intimacies with Jesus, but Great Love will force us to do all we can so that He will not have to put Himself out for us - to go out of His way to win our fidelity. He has such patience with us - such compassion for us - weaklings that we are. Our praise and gratitude of such Merciful Goodness to us, should be expressed most of all in living ever more perfectly the Will of God. Oh if souls could only grasp the infinite perfection of such a life. I offer my whole being to Him to do with it as He wills for the accomplishment of this great desire of His Sacred Heart - especially by consecrated souls. That and only that is true union with Him I have prayed so very much for you these days Jesus loves you - oh so much! Have courage - that many may be drawn to love Him.

The enclosed medal is St. Gerards, and has been blessed by the Sacred Heart. Please tell M. St. Eugene that what she experienced on Feb. 14 was Jesus' love and gratitude for all she had done for and suffered from St. Aimee.

Speak much of Christ's Merciful Love to Fr. Schneider - to give him confidence in his disengagement.

Please do not disappoint M. St. Thomas by not coming yourself to say Mass on her feast. Every one of us would appreciate it so much and Jesus would be so happy to unite us within Him in this spiritual joy. Please do come, Father. Jesus and I do not forget you in your trials! Remember your grateful penitent.

Fr. Mary Mediatrix

J. M. J.

February 27, 1941

Reverend Father Aloysius

Dear Father,

Monday Mother read to us the circular letter of our Reverend Mother Provincial concerning Lent. In the letter our Reverend Mother quoted the article of our Constitution which speaks of observing the fasts and abstinences prescribed by the Church. The article also states that "Besides the prescribed fasts and abstinences, each sister shall, with the approval of her confessor, perform some private penances and mortifications. . . ."

Father, will you please help me in choosing this

private penance which we are to perform? I know of one thing to suggest, but I will be glad to do whatever you may wish to give me.

I have a small belt which our Mistress of Novices gave me to wear on my day of reparation once a week. This belt is made of wire meshes which have blunt ends pointing inwards. If you will permit me, Father, I could wear this for whatever number of days or amount of time you think best.

However, Father, if you would rather that I do another penance instead, I will be glad to do it.

In spite of my infidelities and abuse of God's grace, I

feel ever more and more
a desire to want only what
God wants and to lose
Him beyond measure. I wish
to be most faithful during
Lent. Please ask God to give
me this grace.

I will continue to
pray for you as best I
can. May God bless and
thank you for your child
in Christ Crucified.

Sister Mary Christine

J. M. J.

March 11, 1941

Dominus tecum!
Reverend Father:

Many times a day my poor prayers are placed in Jesus' Heart to be exchanged into graces for you, to bring you - oh so very close to Him - close in His suffering loneliness. I hope you have found strength and courage in His Eucharistic Presence to annihilate yourself as He desired, in surrendering the spiritual consolations which you sought too frequently outside the Seminary. What a hard lesson for us poor mortals to learn: that we only grow more Christ-like in proportion to our willingness to suffer, to sacrifice. We are so easily captivated by the

extraordinary, instead of applying ourselves to the simple Truth. In our attraction for the phenomenal we pass up the grandeur of simplicity - the clear unalloyed revelation of God that is a perpetual vision of the humble soul. If souls would only persevere in the denial of self to the point when the whole being becomes an "all-seeing eye" and behold the ravishing beauty of God where ever His adorable Will places them. Oh Father, turn the souls of your boys into a bonfire of Divine Love - you can - until they cry out in the words of the psalmist, "The zeal of thy house hath eaten me up!" There is such need for fervent priests - priests consumed by Christ's own thirst for souls - priests who will cast fire upon the earth by their divine and ardent love. Spend

yourself, pour out the Goodness She has shown to you, to make the seminarians really other Christs! Teach them above all that they live a Divine Life as long as they accomplish the Divine Will - that is heaven begun - and that alone will make them channels of countless graces for innumerable souls. Keep them God-conscious not self conscious.

I don't know why I have written to you this way except that She urges me to. It was so good of you to come for Mother's feast. You don't know how much the sisters appreciate your saying Holy Mass. Your fervor is always a stimulus to become more pleasing to God and to be much more generous. There seemed to me to be a marked spiritual advancement in Joseph Anglim. I knew the Heart of Jesus rejoiced in him.

March 19, 1941.

Dear Reverend Father:

This is the anniversary day of my reception of a special Badge blessed by the Sacred Heart of Jesus to which He attached the gift of Holy Abandonment that was His during His passion. I have tried to make the day one of ceaseless thanksgiving.

My purpose in writing this meant-to-be short missive is to clearly acquaint you with my present state of soul which I fear I failed to make clear to you when last you were here. Further, I am growing so absent-minded and forgetful that I find it difficult to carry on even an ordinary conversation. I often forget what I am about to say, or even lose the trend of my thought while speaking, so that I often end up by saying I don't remember, and console myself that I am only God's little dumb-bell, and find my content in being just that since He wants it that way.

I feel an ever-increasing need for God and desire for union. My constant appeal to God is for the stripping of self without consulting my preferences or inclinations. Love makes no exceptions and I make none. Yet, with this I feel a dreadful repugnance to this constant self-denial. I have a sense of my utter nothingness and insufficiency and weakness, and this coupled with the repugnance I feel propels me toward God with such a forceful need ~~xxxx~~ that I feel a real anguish. Though grace is above nature, I know, still I have much to fear from my wilful nature. I often kiss my crucifix in these moments asking for increase of love, fidelity and holy abandonment - which gifts were attached to my crucifix about a year ago. These gifts were accepted before with joy, but now they are appreciated. In direct contrast to my shrinking from constant self-denial is my ardent desire for union - and a deeper realization of mystical indwelling of the most Blessed Trinity. Conscious of my weakness, my unceasing appeal is for strength, light and love. I desire with a renewed intensity that God live in me, with me, and through me, as in another humanity without heeding my shrinking from His holy will. My endeavor is to find my joy in giving Him pleasure, in letting Him do with me as He pleaseth. The intensity of this desire and my wilfulness are at war, as it were. In the last few days I have found strength in uniting myself to the Sacred Heart mystically present within me - by imploring Him to draw me into the deepest depths of His adorable loving Heart, and to hide me in the immensity of His love - purifying and inflaming my heart, and then beseeching Him to present me with Himself and all the members of the whole mystical body in the Holy Sacrifice being offered at the moment for the intentions of the Eternal Father. I endeavor to keep united with Christ within me in adoration, thanksgiving, reparation and supplication - in the unceasing immolation of Himself in the Eucharistic Sacrifice. In so doing I seem to gain new strength and energy. I am often impelled to remind myself that my life must be a constant self-immolation if I am to be identified with Christ - and that is what I desire. Sometimes, too, I unite myself to Christ manifesting with His love and His holy abandonment my acceptance of the will of the Eternal Father in all that He shall ordain or permit, and with the Sacred Heart ~~x~~ I pronounce my "Ecce Venio" to His divine decrees. Again, at times I like to unite myself with Mary in her "Ecce Ancilla Domini". However, at the present time God within me is my strengtheing force, and I am depending upon my Adorable Trinity for the strength, light and love necessary to keep on the narrow, straight path. Please pray for me, for as I have tried to clearly show you, I am among God's neediest needy at the present time. I want God! I need God! - And I shall have Him only if I am faithful. Please intercede with the Adorable Trinity for me that I ~~may~~ be so. I shall never rest content until I rest in Him alone, wholly immolated to His greater glory for the salvation of souls.

May the light of His love direct you. I assure you of a remembrance in my poor prayers.

Respectfully,

CLARETIAN MISSIONARIES
ST. JUDE'S SEMINARY
MOMENCE, ILL.

8

Holy Thursday - March 21, 1940

Jesus permitted me to see the soul of Father Aloysius plunged in the purifying ocean of His Merciful and Precious Blood. His Sacred Heart was opened by a dart of Divine Love from whence He sent forth His Spirit filling, animating, with that same Love and confirming in grace the soul of Father by His abiding Holiness. In this supernatural action I perceived the transforming union by which Father's soul was made One with Jesus so that the Blessed Trinity would henceforth be glorified on earth in his person and Jesus might go about in Him doing good to souls.

Holy Thursday - April 10, 1941

After receiving Holy Communion this morning Jesus allowed me to participate in His joy in the gift He made to Father Aloysius of remaining Eucharistically present in him from one Communion to another. Jesus exercises this Divine Power to satiate His Love for souls, to be continually loved and adored in this soul by his reverence, humility and fidelity, to appease the justice of His Father, so offended because of the insults offered His Divine Son, and for the future glory of the Claretian order, so dear to His Heart and that of His Blessed Mother.

S. Mary Mediatrix

Manteno, Ill.
April 23, 1941

Dear Father Aloysius:

I am writing to ask you if you will please send a word to Sister Mary Mediatrix and ask her to ask the Sacred Heart if He will please bless Georges linens for his first Mass. I would like Him to bless his alb, surplice and two cinctures too.

You have given me permission to do this before and I had intended to have Sister Catherine ask her, but Sister will not be going to Beaverville Saturday and so the only way to get word to Frances before George's ordination is thru you. I would like to have his sick call burse & Pyx blessed too.

J.M.J.

Our Lady Academy,
Manteno, Illinois,
April 10, 1941

Reverend Father Aloysius,
St. Jude Seminary,
Momence, Illinois.

Dear Father Aloysius,

I wrote Reverend Mother for the permission you asked me to get and received an answer just this week. The following message was given her unsolicited by Sister Mary Mediatrix.

Words of the Sacred Heart:

"It is not my desire that Sister Mary Catherine should become a victim for the priests of the Archdiocese of Chicago. I long only for the offering of her love and fidelity to grace to repair the offences of the unfaithful priests, and for her life of union with Me to obtain from our heavenly Father the sanctification of the faithful priests."

Signed: Sister Mary Mediatrix.

Accordingly, I have done nothing about this matter except to try to live as faithful as possible. It seems that the way of suffering and penance are not the designs of God on my soul. He seems to claim love and more love. Pray for me that I may fulfill His desires.

Sincerely,

Sister M. Catherine

George will start his retreat Sunday and he is begging for prayers so will you please ask the seminarians to have a remembrance for him? I know it is not necessary to ask you - you have already been more than generous with your prayers.

Deather will it be possible to have a priest say Mass in our chapel tomorrow morning at seven o'clock? If you can will you come yourself? I have some linens for George to be blessed and I would like you to bless them.

Please ask Him to give me a generous heart; at times it is hard for me to recognize His Providence, guiding all things; when I look around and see so many capable souls I wonder why I am where I am.

We are expecting a visit from Rev. Mother; I am glad she is coming & at the same time I dread it. I saw her in Beaverville yesterday.

I have another problem to face with Sister Aimee and I ask you to pray for me - I know what it will mean but I must speak. He certainly is giving me every occasion to overcome my weakness in regard to human respect. Grant that I may measure up to His demands.

I ask Him to give you an increase in His Merciful Love for all your kindness to us.

Sister St Eugene

Our Blessed Mother desires us to honor her during the month of May by renewing for her the Joy of the Incarnation. As she brought forth Christ the Eternal High Priest to the glory of our Heavenly Father, she now longs to bring Him forth in the souls of wayward priests who are failing in their Divine vocation of being other Christs. In union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass being continually offered, we will unite the sacrifice of self that priests may be "pure and spotless victims" with Christ through Mary. We shall generously offer to our beloved Mother

1. The perfect observance of silence in reparation for priests who neglect to preach, to teach, to study the "Word of God."
2. The refraining from drinking between meals in reparation for the unworthy Consecration and reception of the Precious Blood.
3. The refraining from touching our faces in reparation for the insult offered our Lord by unfaithful priests as they touch and receive His Sacred Body unworthily.

The reverent adoration and devotedness to God dwelling within one another in reparation for the abuse by priests of the Divine Authority with which

they are invested.

5. The saying of the Salve Regina daily with arms extended in the form of a cross to obtain the Spirit of Prayer for priests.

Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel, April 26, 1941

Sr. Mary, Mediatrix

S. M. J.

Italy Family Academy
Beavererville, Ill
Apr. 28/41

Very Reverend Fr. Alaynus.
Menemsha, Ill.

Reverend Father:-

Enclosed is a
mass stipend for an an-
niversary mass to be said
on May 14th. I would
appreciate if it could be
said on that date as re-
quested by a friend of one
of our Sisters.

I had hope to have a
visit with you while I
was in Menemsha, but no
doubt the dear Lord had
planned it differently.

I am convinced that
this was providential for
had I talked to you before

seeing Sr. Imelda, the second time, things would not have worked so well, for she would have surmised that I had told you every thing.

I want to thank you most sincerely for requesting Sr. M. Mediatrix to ask the Sacred Heart if there were any messages which would prove helpful during my visit to Normandie.

Paul & I did pray before giving Sr. Imelda her severe but deserving message. She resisted grace for over an hour and made light of the message, but finally grace conquered and after a prolonged talk of over two hours she surrendered her will, promising she

J. M. J.

Holy Family Academy
Beaverille, Illinois
April 28, 1941

Dominus tecum!
Reverend Father:

Your letter came Saturday morning, Feast of our Lady of Good Counsel, so providentially. It seemed to be a verification of what took place during meditation that very morning. Our Blessed Mother made known to me at that time her desires of honoring her during the month of May. Enclosed is a typed copy of them.

Yes, I shall fulfill the requests in your letter, and as soon as possible write you more lengthily. Enclosed are two Mass Stipends. One Mass we should like to be offered by you on May first for priests, and the other for Rev. Mother, at your convenience.

Please pray especially for me and may Jesus bless you abundantly for all your kindness to me.

In sincere Patria
S. Mary Mediatrix

On Your
HAPPY FEAST DAY



J. M. J.

Holy Family Academy
Beaverville, Illinois
May 8, 1941

Dominus tecum!
Reverend Father:

Enclosed is a check
for five dollars. Since there are four
more Saturdays left in May, would
you be kind enough to offer the
Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on each
of them for priests, that they may
be truly "other Christs" according to
our heavenly Mother's desire. I
know it will be such a joy to
her for you, her dear son, to say
these Masses. Jesus and I have
prayed much for you these
past days - you are suffering

keenly, aren't you? But He
knows what is good for us.
what will keep us close to
Him and by that bring Him
to souls. Only through sacrifice
can we become channels of
His love and grace for others.

With the other dollar would
you please offer the Holy Sacrifice
of the Mass on next Sunday
if possible, for Mother St. Thomas.
The novitiate would like
to give her this as a Mother's Day
gift.

Please tell Father Julian
not to loose courage - to be
most generous. Jesus is counting
on him and is blessing him
in his struggle to be faithful.

CLARETIAN MISSIONARIES
ST. JUDE'S SEMINARY
MOMENCE, ILL.

8

May 14, 1941

Jesus gave me a very vivid light on obedience - as He is the way, the truth and the light "by which we go to the Father", the Superior in a community is likewise the same for the religious who would be one with Christ. The Superior is the Way by keeping us on the path of the rules and constitutions; the Truth by exposing our faults and ego in view of clothing ourselves with grace and perfection and the Light by her counsels and words of direction. One drinks from the Fountain of "living waters" which is Christ by every contact made in the spirit of Faith, with one's superior and actual strength is bestowed by our Lord at these times to accomplish His Will to the glory of the Father.

Sr. Mary Mediatrix

J. 11. 9.
Holy Family Academy
Beaverville, Illinois

May 27, 1941

Reverend Father Alaysius
St. Jude Seminary
Momence, Illinois

Dear Father Alaysius:

If it does not inconvenience you, we would appreciate your saying Holy Mass at six o'clock sun time which would be seven o'clock, daylight saving time, on Reverend Mother's Feast, Friday next, May thirtieth.

Thank you so much.

Please pray in a very special way for our privileged one; she has been suffering acutely morally and physically — and He is so silent!

CLARETIAN MISSIONARIES
ST. JUDE'S SEMINARY
MOMENCE, ILL.



May 30, '41

Jesus declared that He showers gifts of His grace upon all the persons and places for whom I pray and when I pray in virtue of obedience He doubles the gifts of His Love.

Jesus asks Father Aloysius to practice meekness and gentleness in giving orders and directions, not because He has been offended but that Father may appear more Christlike and that others may be more generous in obeying him and adoring Christ within him.

St. Mary Mediatrix

The following pages were dictated to me by
Sister Mary Mediatrix when I spent week ends
in Beaverville for this purpose from January
to May, 1941.

Sister Mary Catherine

St. Alphonsus Hospital

Boise, Idaho

J. M. J.

June 11th - 1941

Rev. Aloysius Pallacuria C.M.F.

My Dear Rev Father and Brother in Christ

As I have not heard from You in such a long time I thought I must write a little letter to try to find out if You are real well, and what may be the cause for my brother's long silence.

Do You know that I have never heard from You since a short while after Christmas, Oh that's a long time is it not?

Well dear Father here we ^{are} at the middle of the month of June, I'm about to begin a Novena to the Sacred Heart, for His Feast the 20th. You may be sure You and dear Sister Madelaine, will share with me in this Novena, as You did in my Rosaries and Benedictions all during the Month of Our Blessed Mother May.

I know how very busy You must be around this time of the Year, particularly in Your College work, as well as Retreats, to Religious no doubt You have many try not to over do Your strength, so as to be equal to the strenuous efforts attached to Your arduous work.

I am trying to be all You wish ^{me} to be, and then I feel I fall short of all that I ought to be, but in all humility cry out Oh Heart of Jesus burning furnace of Charity, have mercy on me, are You going to write me that letter You told me about last time You wrote, perhaps it is my own fault, that I have not kept my promises as I should, well Father, do me a favour tell me what I ought to do, and I assure You I'm willing to do it, even tho' it may cause suffering, I am off duty for a few days for a rest, as I was about to break, so I'm getting in some extra prayers of course You are included

I'm sending You some Mass intentions, One for my Nephew John Kohn whose Anniversary is the 18th June two for Rev. Charles Coughlin for his Silver Jubilee

J. M. J.

HOLY FAMILY ACADEMY
BEAVERVILLE, ILLINOIS

June 19/41

Dear Father Alayrus: - Since I have
not the privilege of returning the
gift you gave me "A. Mass" I am
sending you five dollars for a ^{mass} high
for my intentions which are yours
In this case you must carry out
the intentions of the giver and it is
a gift for your feast day.
I shall write myself to your intentions
on that day and shall be at mass in

my hidden abode, the mould in His
Sacred Heart from whence He will offer to
His Eternal Father my supplication in
your behalf.

On Friday I shall send to St Patrick Acad.
a parcel containing, part of the life of
our holy soul and a small book the
Soul of the Apostolates. I regret, the latter
is not bound but it was the only volume
I could secure. - On the 21st you will
have a very special remembrance in the
prayers of the Community. Novices and I
am sure our holy soul will contribute a
generous feast day gift by her prayers.

Prayerful wishes for your happiness in His Love.

Holy Family Academy
Beaver ville Illinois
June 20, 1941

J. M. J.

Dominus tecum!

Reverend Father:

From the depths of His Adorable Heart I wish you with Him a blessed and happy Feast Day. Many are the graces that will flow from Jesus' Heart through Mary upon you. Today, too, on the Feast of His Sacred Heart, He poured treasures of His Love upon your soul especially in gratitude for all the kindness you have bestowed upon me in His Name.

Mother St. Thomas and the little sisters in the novitiate will also remem-

her you in a special way
on your feast. Mother was
so kind as to give me the
enclosed Mass stipend
that I might ask you
to offer the Holy Sacrifice
for my intentions which is
your spiritual progress in
this instance.

May the ever Blessed
Trinity be glorified in your
soul and bless you always.

Gratefully,
Sr. Mary Mediator

CLARETIAN MISSIONARIES
ST. JUDE'S SEMINARY
MOMENCE, ILL.

8

Jesus manifested that Father Aloysius' soul received
the grace of the Spiritual betrothal on February 2, 1940 after
receiving Holy Communion.

July 10, 1941

Sr. Mary Mediatrix

CLARETIAN MISSIONARIES
ST. JUDE'S SEMINARY
MOMENCE, ILL.

July 10, 1941

J. M. J.

Dear Sister Mildreda:

Our good Father
Bloysius was here this morning
and permitted me to read your
last letter to him. You don't know
how much I appreciate your
kindness and generosity in praying
for me. It gives Jesus so much
pleasure when we are good and
thoughtful of one another. It draws
us very close to Him and glorifies
the Mystical Body. Though we have
never met, we are real friends -
soul friends - in His Adorable Heart.
While Father was here, Jesus said
to ~~me~~ me, "My Eternal Father looks
with complacency upon the soul
of Sr. Mildreda. It is the desire of My
Heart to draw her into the depths of
My Merciful Love; in return I ask her
to give Me to souls by her sweetness
and patience under all circumstances.
I ask her to console My Eucharistic
Heart by spending her spare moments

with Me in the chapel. I saw I long
for generous souls who will love
Me according to the Will of My Heav-
enly Father. I count upon her, My Little
One, to do so.

Oh sister, when Jesus calls
a soul His Little One He loves
them very very much. I am happy
for Him that He has you.

Please pray specially for
me as I shall make my Profess-
ion in a few weeks on Aug. 15, My
we always be united in time
and in eternity in His Loving Heart
to the glory of the Father.

Sr. Mary Mediatrix

St. Alphonsus Hospital

Boise, Idaho

July 14th 1911

Rev. Aloysius Collaenia. C.M.F.

My Dear Rev. Brother in Christ

I wrote You a letter in the early part of June
and inclosed Five Dollars for Masses, since I have not heard from
You since, I'm wondering if You received it. as I have heard of mail
being tampered with, perhaps I should have made it a check or Postal
order, I will be grateful to You if You will kindly let me know
if You received it, I hope You feel real, well, and not working to hard
it is quiet around here, the city authority forbid fire works in the
city, much to our comfort, I'm feeling better since the few days rest
I keep You and little Sister in my daily prayers.
as ever Your devoted Sister in Holy Cross
Sister M. Mildreda

July 10, 1941

J.M.J.

Ave Christe!

Dear, dear Mother:

With Him I thank you for all you did for our little Mother. Help us now by your prayers to be so good that she won't need to go away from us ever again. I think we all appreciate her more for having had to do without her. I hope we have all been purified of a little of self that was such a drain on her and heart ache to Him. I can't tell you how we all just thrilled to see Mother-- and what a change in her from when she left us. Oh God is Good, isn't He? But what a tease--didn't He have a good time though the short while you were here? Just a look. Well, He knows best--do you s'pose He just might let us have a chat before second retreat? I wish He were just a little more talkative these days--all I know is He has something up His sleeve--but time takes care of all.

Thank you, too from all of us for the peanut brittle. It was a real treat and then novices are always candy hungry--you seem to know.

Jesus and I will be thinking of you during these busy days of retreat, praying for you and yours. Can we ask a special favor of you. Please try to see Sr. Borgia during retreat--it will mean a lot to further His work and stimulate her efforts to correspond to His desires. Undoubtedly she'll tell you.

And please offer your living Chalice often to the Father to be filled more and more with Jesus, to be poured out according to His Will for souls throughout the world. You know, Profession day I won't be giving myself to Jesus--I will profess that I've always been His but He will give me to everyone else that day--to all souls--to the world to be used--to be consumed as He was on Calvary. Oh Mother, that day He will breath over His Chalice the words of Consecration "This is My Blood--Drink ye all of this"! What words can tell this ecstasy of Love! Oh Mother, my heart throbs with His great Love for the Eternal Father and for all mankind--that is my life and that will be my eternity.

Quid retribum!

Your Chalice and His through Mary.

Sr. Mary Mediatrix

J. M. J.

OUR LADY ACADEMY
Manteno, Illinois
July 13, 1941.

Reverend Aloysius Ellacuria
St. Jude Seminary
Momence, Illinois

Dear Reverend Father:

While time permits I want to express to you my gratitude for the manifold graces granted me through your Sacred Ministry, and also to tell you a few things that you in your humility would prevent my saying otherwise than by writing.

I know through Sister Mary Mediatrix that it has been through your direction that I have drawn closer to God. You worked in perfect accord with the Spirit of God, carefully letting Him take the lead in all things, counselling, encouraging and comforting me in my every need and effort. Had I not met this in you together with your kindness, your understanding, and trust, at that difficult period of my life, I fear I should have fallen a hopeless wreck by the wayside. God gave us you at the needed moment, and I shall never cease to thank Him for this His kindness to us. If feel it is through you my soul has waxed strong in Him.

The acceptance of your leaving was the hardest act of Holy Abandonment I have had to make since I made the Vow of Greater Perfection. I said the Gloria Patri repeatedly renewing my abandonment and appeal for strength until after two days I regained my usual composure and realized with shame my lack of generosity and courage. God then removed the ache and renewed my soul in His strength and love. I never had a director until I had you and it was hard "bucking" myself up to a change. But then, I can see naught but His holy will in it all. He gives and takes. I know I must find my delight and happiness in His Will - the sword of immolation that cuts but to heal. We are after all of so little consequence, our understanding and love are so limited while He is Infinity Itself. I will trust Him always please pray for me that I remain faithful even though the shadows close in around me and I be doubted on every side. I am so weak and cowardly. Yes, you are right, I do yield Him as perfect correspondence as possible but I cannot do otherwise, that is one of the wonders of His grace. I cannot refuse Him no matter what His demand. No soul which has received as many graces as He has given me could refuse so kind and loving a Master His least desire. I want not only to please Him always and all things, but to possess Him as my very own. I understand and feel with dread what union with Him means but I still want God be the cost what it may. He sweetens and strengthens - even carries our burdens if we only cast our cares upon Him - and I know I can count on Him though I have everything to fear from myself.

I feel that I am losing a kind father and that all the security I felt with you as my director have slipped out, too. It was easy to pour out my soul to you (as easy as interior manifestation could be to such as I) and this primarily because of your trust and understanding. I felt you knew what real love is and that you would not ridicule my delight in Him, or love's foolishness. Your knowledge of the Merciful Love made you encourage a union so little deserved. The deeper the abyss from which He lifts us the greater is His power manifest. Oh, the wondrous work of God who can doubt His love and mercy. I cannot believe anything but wilful rejection of grace could blind one so thoroughly as not to recognize these two great attributes of God. I know it is no little sacrifice for you to leave a place rendered so sacred. When I think of you Our Lord's words to St. Theresa relative to a certain soul keep recurring to me: "He serves Me greatly, but I would have him stripped of all, as I was upon the Cross". Yes, that is how I feel and why I continuously offer you as a holy and perfect holocaust with Christ through Mary. The deep love you instilled in me for the Holy Mass, and your many kindly counsels I shall carry with me to my dying day. In a spirit of obedience I shall strive to love God, in, with, and through my Crucified Love daily more and more, until love finds its consummation in eternal communion. I shall strive always to "live the Mass" letting myself be sacrificed by the Hand of God in whatever way and to whatever extent He wishes. Never shall I forget you as you stand at the altar of God, truly Another Christ! I thank you for your promise to pray for me and especially in the Eucharistic Sacrifice. The privilege of assisting at your Holy Masses will ever be cherished as one of the greatest blessings of my life. May the plenitude of His Infinite love and holiness be yours always, and may you draw many souls to Him. As token of my gratitude my feeble prayers will ever be offered to God for you through Mary.

Respectfully,

John M. J.

CAMP STAR OF THE SEA
LAKE SPRINGFIELD
SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

July 13, 1941.

Rev. Father Aloysius, C.M.F.,
St. Jude Seminary,
Momence, Illinois.

Rev. dear Father:

You have been in my thoughts and my prayers very much since we heard the sad news that you would probably be leaving us before we returned from camp. Our dear Lord is asking a big sacrifice of us in taking you from us - however, we realize that we must bow our heads in submission to His Holy Will and say our "Fiat."

The dear Sacred Heart seems to be blessing our work here at camp. We are overcrowded this year and have been obliged to refuse numerous registrations. Father is happy over the manner in which everything is going - particularly, the beauty of the souls of our little ones. I had the privilege of again this year preparing or helping to prepare a little girl for her First Holy Communion which she made in our little chapel yesterday morning. Last evening we had a reception for one of our former campers who is leaving the 16th to enter the Ursulines in Missouri. We have a group of three little Aspirants from the Franciscan Convent camping here with us. Father has had a special cabin built for them. The girls wear their aspirant's uniforms or habits for Mass in the morning and for Benediction in the evening. They are white dresses with blue veils. Their presence has made a deep impression on many of the girls.

J. M. J.

3 Holy Family Academy
Beaverville, Ill
July 30/41

Very Reverend Father Alaysius.

St. Jude Seminary
Monmee, Ill.

Reverend and Dear Father:-

Mother Rose Mary
wrote me asking for her
message.

If her Sr. M. Mediatrix gave
me the copy she said:
"Father Alaysius told me to
give you this to read and
he asked me to return
to him" so I returned the

during our retreat.

Since I saw you, I have
heard more talking about
Father Mc Namara and in
order to protect and safe-
guard Sr. M. M. from the
angle of gossip, I think
it is best Father Mc Namara
never come to see Sr. M. M.
Please do not misunderstand
me, I am not finding fault
with Fr. Mc Namara, but
with those who spread stories.
Thanking you for all you
have done for our Sisters
I remain Yours respectfully
in His Merciful Love.

Sister St. Emily

J.M.F.

HOLY FAMILY ACADEMY
BEAVERVILLE, ILLINOIS

August 4, 1941

Dear Father Alaysius:

He would greatly appreciate
your saying Mass some time this week
for our good Superior, Mother St. Dominic.

Kindly pray also for S.M.

Meditatrix who has been violently assailed by the Evil One over and above severe physical suffering. She seems somewhat better to-day although unable as yet to retain any food.

May we count on your prayers for our retreat, please.

Most gratefully yours in the Sacred Heart
S. St. Thomas S.S.C.M.

J. m. J.
Holy Family Academy
Beaverille, Illinois

August 12, 1941

Reverend Father Alaysius
St. Jude Seminary
Momence, Illinois

Dear Father Alaysius:

It is customary for the
mistress of novices to have Mass said
for those of Ceremony on August fifteenth.
I know it would mean far more to
our dear S. M. mediatrix to have it
said by you. May I ask you to in-
clude her little companion, Miss
Helen, who is to receive the Holy

Habit that day.

Sister has been suffering considerably both physically and morally. Apparently the Lord is putting the final touches to the purification of His living Chalice. Do count on your prayers.

Awaiting the privilege of having you with us on Sister's memorable day, I am

Most respectfully and gratefully yours in J.M.

St. Thomas S.S.C.M.

St. Patrick Academy
Momence, Illinois

Beaverville, Illinois,
August 13, 1941.

Rev. Father Aloysius, C.M.F.,
St. Jude Seminary,
Momence, Illinois.

Rev. dear Father:

Mother Rose Mary has kindly permitted me to write this letter to you. I felt that during the peace, calm, and quiet of retreat, it would be easier to tell you my thoughts and feelings, the ardent longings and aspirations of my soul. I usually find it difficult to express myself verbally, especially when under strong emotion.

We are having a very peaceful and quiet retreat. Our retreat master is rather unusual and while he is not the inspiration that many retreat masters have been, he has a manner of emphasizing fundamental truths in a way that strikes home and impresses them upon your mind. I think you would enjoy his constant repetition of the fact that we are too short-sighted in our views of things - that we do not take the long stretch or far-sighted view of things. I feel that I am making a good retreat. I am trying my best to make it so and I feel that our dear Lord will make up for my deficiencies.

All that you said to me last week, Father, has been the subject of my constant thought and meditation during the retreat. I found you ~~most~~ most severe - but rightly so - and I thank God that He permitted you to speak to me the way you did. It seemed to me that the more you spoke, the more severe you became and the more vehement in your denunciation of me. When I left the confessional, I felt as though I had been reduced to the "least common denominator." The more I think of it, the greater the sorrow and the shame I feel for my great pride, selfishness, self-love, self-esteem and human respect. I feel that the Holy Spirit enlightened you and guided you in order to make known to me the sad state of my soul. I am deeply grateful to you, Father, for your kindness and charity. I have made a thorough examination of conscience and I find that all you said is only too true. I have not been fully abandoned to God's holy Will; I have not confided in Him completely;



The Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary
cordially invite you to be present
at the
Ceremony of Religious Reception and Profession

Friday Afternoon, August 15, 1917

One Thirty P.M. - D.S.T.

St. Mary's Church

Beaverville, Illinois

Fr. M. Meditrix S.S.C.M.

J. M. J.

Our Lady Academy
Manteno, Illinois
August 20, 1941.

Dear Reverend Father:

Briefly, here is the report of my annual retreat. -

My love for our Blessed Mother impelled me to take with me the CITY OF GOD - The Conception. I found Part 2, beginning with Chapter 3 - Mary's life in the Temple - to meet my very need in the perfect fulfillment of my vows of religion and greater perfection. I read most of this part through, and it is my plan, if you approve, to take it paragraph by paragraph, using it for my meditation each day, that I may model my life on Mary's, endeavoring to imitate her as perfectly as I can. I have been very niggardly with God and I fell far short in the practice of my vows during these many years and I am determined to amend my past lethargy in the Divine service by love's abandon through obedience and charity, and a more perfect observance of my vows and Holy Rule. I want this to be a holy year - one of love and thanksgiving in union with our Sister Mary Mediatrix. I promised this God many times during retreat and again in a particular way during Holy Mass, August 15th. The words of a hymn to the Sacred Heart which they sang, "Let Thy will my master be" rang constantly through my mind from the beginning of Holy Mass until the Offertory. At the Offertory of Mass while they chanted the Veni Creator I yielded my whole being to His creative action in union with the Sacred Heart to the Eternal Father. It was a real and complete offering of my whole being, and though the tears flowed copiously somehow I didn't mind. Pray God that I may not take back what I have given Him and promised to give Him. I have a plaque of our Lady, -Rosa Mystica - as the Child in the Temple, which I had blessed through Reverend Mother for Childlike simplicity, love's abandon, and greater perfection - and the desire that each time this image of Mary is looked at it may inspire the three gifts mentioned and an ever-increasing love of God through Mary.

Most of my free time outside the retreat exercises was spent in the Sacramental Presence - there were many moments of loving intimacy with Him. I guess the dear good God knows by now I love Him, if He can believe me, I told Him so often enough. While we were chanting the Office, and the opposite side was saying their part I was telling Him between the lines "I love Thee" until I thought that might be wrong and then I didn't do it consciously. It seemed more perfect to follow the Latin since I was praying as a Community, instead of inserting my own chatter. Wasn't that right?

Reverend Mother asked that we make this a year of love by more fervent Communions - preparation and Thanksgiving. To effect this, I am endeavoring to live with God - my Trinity, in an ever-increasing intimacy, and I ask God this with each Holy Communion.

Also during retreat I made a pact with our Blessed Mother and my Guardian Angel. I asked Mary to place me upon each paten with the Host and to offer me with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and all the members of the Mystical Body to the Eternal Father - and to immerse me in the depths of each and every Chalice of the Precious Blood in the Masses throughout the world presenting me thus to the Eternal Father that all things may be fulfilled in me according to the counsel of His will, and for souls. I asked my Guardian Angel to bring me my God in spiritual communion at the Communion of every Holy Mass. I have been very forgetful of my Guardian Angel, but this sacred duty will make up, I hope.

Please pray that I may be faithful in Love's ABANDON through obedience and Charity. I assure you of a daily remembrance in my poor prayers,

Respectfully,

Sister Mary

St. Alphonsus Hospital

Boise, Idaho
J.M.F.

Sunday Aug 20th. 41

Rev. Aloysius Collacuria C.M.F.

My dear Rev. Brother in Christ

I have such a long time since last heard from You, that I hope You are not ill, Did You get my letters? Now dear Father I come to You in my sore distress that You will come to my aid, with Your good prayers to help me out of my difficulty, I'm to be sued to the Courts for the injury of a Patient's arm that I took specimen of blood from her vein for determining the amount of sugar in her blood stream, she being a diabetic, her claim is I injured her arm, which I know myself I did not, at the time there were X-ray pictures taken of the joint of the elbow as well as soft tissue X-ray picture, neither one showed any injury whatsoever, nevertheless she has entered the case in the hands of a Lawyer. Now dear Father will You be so kind as to pray that this affair will be settled outside the Law Courts, I will accept this Cross, only fear going to the Law Courts, so please dear pray and ask Your good little Sister to fix it up by settlement so I won't have to suffer the publicity of the affair, not only ^{my} self

St. Alphonsus Hospital

Boise, Idaho

I.M.J.

September 11th 1941

Rev. Aloysius Ellacuria C.M.F.

My Dear Rev. Brothers in Christ

Many thanks for Your good letter and good advice as well as Your good prayers in my behalf which are appreciated at all times but never perhaps as much as at present time.

About a week ago the Lawyer came to see Sister Superior, saying he had been to see the people and found them well disposed to make a settlement since then Sister has not heard from them.

I'm hoping and praying that they will do so soon to say thank You for all Your kind help to me seem so inadequate, as well as ^{to} dear little Sister Madiatrip however dear Father I will try to reciprocate in my small way by my prayers in Your behalf and Your Seminary, and for my little Sister every day of my life Father I will try my best to become worthy of all that the Sacred Heart wishes me to be, and am willing to suffer for love of Him, all I ask is to make it

14
As well as the wonderful privilege the dear little Sister
so graciously bestowed on me as to adopt me as her
soul friend in life and eternity in His Adorable Heart.

I can show my appreciation only by my prayers for
her, and Your dear Father, by living my life in union
with ~~hers~~ hers for love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
and the Immaculate Heart of His Holy Mother.

I have kept her little message You first sent me and
together with this letter I cherish as a miraculous gift
coming directly from such holy hands, I will read them
frequently and make an act of humility as well as meditate
on each sentence, so that by the help of Almighty God's
grace I may merit the signal honor His loving Heart
so bountifully bestows on poor me."

I hope Your health is good tell me about Your own
self when You write me again, You know I am
interested in Your welfare, anything I can do for
You, do not fail to ask me.

Placing You in Our Lord's own Heart
through the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
As ever Your Sister

Sister M Mildrida

Dear Reverend Father:

As briefly as possible I desire to expose to you the workings of the Holy Spirit within me - that you may be the better enabled to direct and help me to keep under the Divine influence, letting the Divine power within me direct my every movement. It is so easy to fall under the sway of nature and be led by its impulses even while exerting the greatest effort in upward striving. This is, I suppose, what spiritual writers call "human frailty" - permitted by God to impress deeply upon us what we are, and Who God is. As Our Lord put it to St. Catherine "you are she who is not, I am He Who is". When face to face with the hard reality of an existent condition, I often kneel even in the Sacramental Presence feeling myself bereft of faith, trust and love, clinging to God by a mere thread of faith with but a spark of love, while self seems like an intolerable monster about to seize its prey. In these moments I experience real need of love, great love, and beseech Him over and over again to flood my soul with torrents of Divine Love that I may live for Him as I desire in spite of the ego. I have so much to fear from self. Twice I felt myself brinking close to infidelity and called to God like a drowning child uttering over and over the ejaculation: "Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place my trust in Thee". I begin to understand why so few souls attain to sanctity, it takes courage and strength, and I feel so weak and cowardly. Yet impoverished as I feel myself to be I know He wants constant, whole-hearted abandonment, and I must give Him that. He wants the giving of my life-blood, as it were, moment by moment, in union with Him in the Eucharistic Sacrifice. Please pray that I may be faithful - and beseech Him to bring His little rebel into complete subjection to Him - to keep me faithful, to be merciful to me a sinner. Each day, each hour, each moment, He is granting me His grace, with each giving my indebtedness is increasing, I must yield Him my all - which is nothing really. Jesus and Mary were so meek, so humble, so little, and I am so proud, so independent, so wilful -(and this is truth), still I want to be like them, meek and humble and kind. I formed the habit of kissing the floor at each station when I make my Stations of the Cross - as an act of humility and petition for this virtue which I so need. My tongue is a wily instrument, which I use, Oh, so poorly. The reason I know is because I am led by human impulse and not by God within me. I have exerted great effort on this point with somewhat disheartening results. Perhaps if you would treat me with severity on this point it might help, I might feel like blasting but none but God will know. I was confornted by a reading in the City of God where our Blessed Mother states: "With creatures it is very difficult to preserve the golden middle, without danger of passing from the correct and necessary to the imperfect. The way to avoid this danger is to tend toward the other extreme striving rather to reflect and be silent." This is what I have been endeavoring to do - my chancing upon it in print only confirms my belief that at present that is what God wants, at least until I become more Christ-centered. Every time I use holy water I make the sign of the Cross and then a little cross on my forehead, lips and heart, begging God: "My the Most Blessed Trinity, Eternal Father, Son and Holy Ghost reign in my mind, on my lips and in my heart." I really believe this little practice is helping me. I desire every fibre of my being to be His, at His command. I belong to Him and am not my own, - and I delight in the thought that some day I will really be all His by Divine union, and not in desire only. When I fail I say with St. Theresa (the strong woman - saint I love and admire) "Lord, behold the fruits of my garden". I am continuing the Storm Novena you asked me to make byt differently now. Five Hail Mary's in union with the Five Holy Wounds, one Our Father in honor of St. Joseph for the dying; an Our Father, Hail Mary and Gloria Patri, in union with Christ Crucified for our Holy Father and the needs of Holy Mother Church. At this latter I renew my act of Holy Abandonment, and offer myself anew as a victim for Holy Mother Church. I hesitated to do this at firest, but I think I remember you telling me to do that once, am I mistaken. In the fulfillment of my vow of greater perfection the most secure way to follow seems to me - to do what is most disagreeable to nature except where Obedience decides the issue. Right?

I have told you much, I am afraid I cannot express more, but of this I am certain. I will to love God, I will to be faithful, to be all things to all men for God, I want to please Him always, to keep myself constantly in His presence, to do always what pleases Him and not self, I have chosen God as my Master, I want to be directed in all things by the Spirit of God. The more impossible I feel a thing to be the more do I cast myself into His hands relying upon His Divine power to do for me what I cannot do. Eventhough my feelings are not in accord with this belief, I still say: God please do for me what I am powerless to do, Thou canst do it, and I know Thou wilt. Determined effort with the power of the Divinity I know is sufficient, but I still fear my weakness. This you must understand if I have made myself clear. He is letting me feel my miseries - and I am happy because so long as I am sunk in the abyss of human weakness- knowledge of God is greater, and I see myself as I am. In spite of what I feel, He is drawing me closer. This I know by a more ready triumph of grace over nature. I have been struck with wonder at times by the softness of my own voice - when I felt like blasting as it were. In these moments I can only lift up my mind and look at Him: saying with St. John: "It is the Lord". God is good, so very good, I must never refuse Him anything,

In beginning this letter I said something about brevity - are you convinced now I have a womanish tongue? Pardon my taking so much of your time.

Please pray for me and my needs. Some say they never ask for anything for themselves. I feel I must. For to whom shall I go if not to Him and His own. We need to be virtuous, we need to be holy, the frank admission of our weakness and insufficiency, it seems to me must draw down His blessing, and I think it is what He wants of me. In proportion as we draw closer to Him, do our merits for Holy Mother Church increase, this is my strong plea to God and my Immaculate Mother for Divine union. The more He becomes part of me, the more He can do through His feeble child - that is, I think a strong argument in my favor. The delay I attribute to His holy will - the blame to self, self is still too strong. With His help I am bent on reserving for self only hatred and contempt. Pray God to uphold this my resolve with the power of His Divinity, He alone can effect this unnatural course.

I assure you of a daily remembrance in my prayers and works.. May the Divine Wisdom uphold and direct you always.

Respectfully,

Sister Mary

... a few more times I will be able to get the job done. I am not sure if I will be able to do it, but I will try my best.

I assume you to definitely remember those in the disaster and market. May the private members bring out your views.

Respectability

St. Alphonsus Hospital
Boise, Idaho

J. M. J. Sunday Sept. 13th. 41

Rev. Aloysius Blaeuris C.M.F.

Rev. Dear Father

Many Thanks for the Badges I assure You I appreciate all Your kind thoughtfullness to me as well as all the wonderful privileges and Blessings & Graces You have obtained for me.

I will make every effort to correspond to all, and follow Your advice with all the ardor of my heart and soul, so that I may in my small way be worthy of the Infinite favours You have obtained through that living Saint for me. God love and bless You and Her in return how to thank You I can find no words, but instead, I promise You fidelity, and the assurance of my daily prayers, for You and Your Seminary and for my dear little suffering friend. I devide the Badges You sent me to those I know will pray for You, I forgot all the blessings attack as I sent the one You sent me to my nieces with a badge each when You first sent them to me, so when You write me again please Father write them out so I may give them

J. M. J. St. Alphonsus Hospital

Boise City, Idaho Oct. 23rd 41

Rev Aloysius Ellacuria C. M. F.

My Dear Rev. Brother in Christ.

So very many times I'd give much to talk with You for a half hour, often too the thoughts come to my mind to make a novena to the Sacred Heart that He might fix it for me to get there. What would You tell me to do about the Lady who was going to bring damages against the Hospital and me, so far she has not done anything more than enter it with her Lawyer the Lawyer for the Hospital went to interview her concerning her plea when he explained the situation to her, he found she was well disposed to settle the matter but asked for time to consider it, so far I've heard nothing more from them. I want to thank You for Your good prayers and kind solicitude for me in my worry, and also dear little Sister Mediatrix I will not forget You both, I give every Friday in Honor of the Sacred Heart to Sister Mediatrix as a Holy Cross day, which mean Holy Communion, Mass, everything I do the entire day, my prayers the merits of my work, silence, aspirations for the that day, Saturday I give to You and for the success of Your Seminary and Your own intentions, as a Holy Cross day, then too I keep You both in Rosary and always ask a special Blessing from Our Lord at Benediction every evening for You both. Father find inclosed a Mass offering in Honor of the Sacred Heart for the souls of the priests nearest to Heaven, which I promised in Thanksgiving when ever convenient to You, add also all Your own intentions I hope You are feeling well, take care of Yourself, do tell me about Yourself

Holy Family Academy
Beaverville Illinois
October 1, 1941

J. M. J.

Reverend Father:

The little novices and postulants would greatly appreciate your offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Saturday, October fourth, feast of our beloved Father Founder, for Mother St. Thomas.

Jesus and I remember you in a special way these days. Do not fear - His Providence is ruling all things - it is only when we do not accept His plans and desires that His glory is not manifested. May He bless you always. Please pray for me - I need it badly. His Sr. Mary Mediatrix

J. M. J.

St. Marys Hospital
Kankakee, Ill
Oct. 7/41

Rescued Fathers Aloysius,
St. Jude Seminary
Monee, Ill.

Rescued Fathers:-

I just returned from Colorado Springs and I am pleased to tell you Sr. St. Michael had a very successful operation. On account of her asthmatic condition it will be some time before she can return to Illinois.

I am enclosing a dollar for a mass stipend in honor of St. Jude to obtain the cure of a very nice lady I met at the hospital where Sister Michael is.

She has a great devotion to St. Jude so I promised her to have a mass said for her. Father, I would appreciate if you could say the mass yourself as soon as possible. Please ask the Fathers and the boys pray for her recovery also. She is a convert and is very charitable. She married a Count in Belgium but when she was broke out they lost all they had and they flew back to the states.

How is everything at St. Jude's? I have kept all your intentions in my prayers and will continue to do so.

With grateful and respectful sentiments, I am Yours in union with Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary.

Sister St. Emily

Our Lady Academy
Manteno, Illinois

Blessing of Mother Saint Eugene's Crucifix.

" In the abundance of My Love I bless this Crucifix, imparting to it the essence of My Merciful Love. I pray to My Heavenly Father that this soul may be to Him another Christ by permitting Me to live and reign in her: that she may be crucified by doing always the things that please Him: that she may be a living Crucifixion, sustained by divine and eternal love embracing all souls."

October 15, 1941.

Sister Mary Mediatrix.

J.M.J.

Saint Alphonsus Hosp. Bonn City

Oct. 31st. '41

Rev. Aloysius Ellacuria C.M.F.

My Dear Brother in Christ

Inclosed find offering for Mass in honor of the Little Flower for the following intentions (1) in Thanksgiving for safe return trip (2) that Ambrose Hardy will give up the habit of intemperance and come back to the Church, he has not made his duties in 3 years this man is Miss Hardy's brother, she is very much worried about him Miss Hardy is my assistant here in the Lab. she received word that she must go home, as her Mother is ill on account of this boy's wrong doing Please Father ask the dear Sacred Heart to free this poor man of this malady ask the dear little Sister to ask Our Lord for this favour, Miss Hardy will do whatever our Lord would wish in return, she is a very good Catholic girl, in the real sense of the word, I will miss her very much, You see Father one more tiny fragment of the cross, but I willingly accept it from His loving Hands, Today Saturday is Your Holy Cross day for Your intention and we are having 40 hours devotion, You and dear Sister is with me in all my prayers, and Holy hours,

Very many thanks for all Your prayers + Blessings

Devotedly Yours in Holy Cross

Sister M. Mildrida

CLARETIAN MISSIONARIES
ST. JUDE'S SEMINARY
MOMENCE, ILL.

8

November 1941

Jesus manifests that Father Aloysius has already entered the seventh mansion of the spiritual life according to St. Teresa's teaching and that He can desire no more from Father as a human being for his fidelity to grace is perfect and that is the supreme consolation of God.

Pray for me
St. Mary Mediatrix

Close out all other stations on your radio - Let God only broadcast during these days. Try to help each other to keep this silence - each for himself, God for us all. The truth may hurt, sometimes, too, we may not want to take an antiseptic. Take the things which may be said for yourself and not for your neighbor. If the shoe fits, wear it. Take your medicine. Do not be afraid to accept the truth.

Pray much during the retreat. God is more eager to give you the blessings of a good retreat than you are to receive them. Pray with confidence, sincerity and perseverance. "Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean." Pray with the priest at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. At the moment of the elevation, pray: "Lord, that I might see." I wish to congratulate you upon your method of attending Mass. Your Missa Recitata this morning was beautiful. It was a pleasure and a thrill for me to hear you praying with me. Continue this beautiful method of following your daily mass. Pray during the day, also. Say your rosary and Make your way of the cross. The measure of your success depends upon yourself. Put in 100% energy - don't be afraid of sacrifice. This may be your last retreat. Sometimes a retreat is a proximate preparation for death. If this grace of retreat were offered to a damned soul in hell, with what joy would he not accept it. Were it offered to a soul in Purgatory, how happy that soul would be for another chance to get back on the right road. There are so many things depending upon this retreat for you - your future life, perhaps your eternal salvation, your vocation, your getting back on the right path. Perhaps the spiritual spring of your life has been broken and needs to be repaired. This is the time to have it done. How can we co-operate with the Master during the retreat? First, listen to His voice. Secondly, pray fervently. The outcome depends upon yourself. Put this retreat in the hands of our Blessed Mother. We are now at the end of the ecclesiastical year - soon we shall be celebrating the great feast of Mary's Immaculate Conception. Mary is the patroness of our great United States. Ask for the grace for all to make a good retreat, yourself and your classmates so that after this retreat you may return to your ordinary duties renewed in mind and body and reconsecrated as children of our Mary, our Immaculate Mother.

Second Conference at 11:20

WHAT MUST I DO TO POSSESS ETERNAL LIFE?

"Good Master what must I do to possess eternal life?" Like the rich young man in the gospel, this should be the question in our mind now at the opening of the retreat. "What must I do?", the rich young man showed by this question that he was not entirely satisfied with life; he feels that there is something better in life than he possessed. All his wealth and luxury do not completely satisfy him. He puts this question to the Master. In like manner, your boys and girls are here this morning to put the same question to the Master. Life is a great masquerade ball. We are all playing a part. Salvation is a personal thing. You can't get to Heaven on the reports or merits of your parents. You must get there on your own report card -- your own merits. Make this retreat a personal thing. Take care of your own soul. Perhaps I am doing things I am ashamed of, reading books and magazines which are sinful, doing things with myself or others which are unworthy of a Catholic boy or girl. Am I a hypocrite? Before my teachers and parents, perhaps I am posing as a model, and an example while in reality, before God I am as a rotten apple, a dead branch, ready for the eternal fires of hell. What must I do? In the question of eternal salvation there is

no choice. There is no alternative. You cannot serve God and mammon. Either you will despise the one and hate the other - or you will serve one and desert the other. Remember the words of Holy Scripture: "If thy eye scandalize thee, pluck it out." "Away with it." This is a clarion call of the Master. Give it up - this occasion of sin - give it up rather than lose everything. Perhaps you are like the young man, you have been promising and promising to give up the occasions of sin but you do not do so.

We need courageous action and, action-courageous and victorious will be the watch-word of this retreat.

Our main purpose here on earth is to gain Heaven and eternal life. If we do this we are a wonderful success, if we lose it we are miserable failures. We ought to live the words of Longfellow's Psalm of Life: "Life is Real-----", we should live these words, and live them as fully as we can.

Man is on earth to know, to love and to serve God and to be happy with Him for ever in Heaven. You young people are interested in love. Life itself is a divine romance. What makes a romance? Love, adventure and happiness. God loves you with an eternal, infinite and personal love. Love is restless until it has made another happy. God wishes you to share His infinite happiness. He has given you a mortal soul that will live forever with Him in Heaven, and thus share His infinite happiness. If you wish to make a good retreat, keep ~~will~~ this question in mind; What is ~~eternity~~? It is a never ending existance. Mind cannot grasp it. Suppose that this chapel were filled with sand and that an Angel would come once in a thousand years to take one grain of sand away. How long to you suppose it would take to empty the chapel? Since the time of the death of Christ, only two grains of sand would be taken away, up until the present time. Finally, however, a time would come when the chapel would be emptied and even this would be but the beginning of eternity. Eternity is one long, endless existance. There is no concept of time in eternity. You and I will be either eternally happy with God in Heaven, or eternally unhappy with the devil in hell.

See God's great love for us in creating us. See it again in His redeeming us. Suffering is the touch-stone and proof of love. Look at a mother's love, she sacrifices herself and suffers every possible inconvenience as a proof of her love.

What is your worth? One who loves you, God himself, has recognized your worth. Go in spirit to the Crib of Bethlehem. There you will see a merchant who sees in your soul the pearl of great price. The Child Jesus begs of you: "My child, give me your heart." Go to Calvary see the wounds of our Divine Saviour, hear His groans. Why is He suffering? He is suffering out of love for you and for me. This divine romance is between God and your own soul.

By Baptism, God has regenerated you and made you a child of God and an heir of Heaven. God has actually adopted us into His family. What man would do what God has done. You are engaged to God by Baptism. If you turn away from God in sin, you tear off that garment of Baptismal innocence. If you persevere in your love and service to Him, you will save that soul for all eternity. "What doth it profit a man if he gain the whole world and suffer the loss of his soul?" What are these few

moments of satisfaction compared to all eternity? Look at the example of the rich man. The Master has said "the rich man died and was buried in hell." What did all his wealth profit him then? What did it profit Judas who blinded by avarice betrayed his God? What would it profit you if in spite of a good beginning you end up badly?

Some time ago, one of our retreat masters told of a retreat he gave at May's Lake. It was a retreat for men only, and there was a young man making the retreat who had a very beautiful voice. At Benediction time when the men sang the service, they all stopped singing as soon as they heard his voice. His beautiful voice filled the chapel with the praises of God and all were deeply moved at the power and strength of his voice. Upon talking to him, we found out that he was a famous opera singer. Some time after the retreat was over, the priest who conducted it happened to enter the Stevens Hotel in Chicago and as he was passing in one of the corridors there was a man scrubbing the floor. The man greeted Father very pleasantly and asked if he did not remember him. At first the priest did not recognize him but later in the conversation found out that he was the famous opera singer who had thrilled everyone with his beautiful voice at the time of the retreat. Father asked him how he had ^{been} reduced to this, to scrubbing floors in place of his opera singing? He answered that the sermon on death during the retreat had made him stop and think. He said that he knew that if he continued his life as an opera singer doing the things he had been doing, and living the life he had been living he would undoubtedly lose his soul, and he added, "Father I didn't trust myself, therefore I thought it best to give it up!"

Let us pause and let these things sink deeply into our souls. Ask ourselves if we have been living the life that Christ wishes us to. Have we been doing the things that God is asking us to, or have we been refusing Him all that He wishes? Let us ask ourselves the question, what doth it profit me if I gain the whole world and suffer the loss of my own soul? As we arise each morning, let us say the little ejaculation: "All for thee Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. One more day in which I can work to gain Heaven." Instead of giving up in times of sorrow, let us think of each day as one more day in which to suffer, one more day in which to earn my crown, one more day for heaven.

Conference Afternoon 2:00

MORTAL SIN

This morning we considered the purpose for which we were here and we recognized the fact that we have a mind to know God, a heart to love Him and a will to serve Him. We are here to know, to love and to serve God and to gain Heaven. We are here to carry on a divine romance. Heaven is our real home. There is only one thing on earth that can spoil our chances for reaching Heaven and that is mortal sin. We must be resolved to avoid mortal sin which could keep us from Heaven. We must know the meaning of mortal sin. Let us try during this conference to understand its motive, its evil consequences and its malice. In the

eyes of the world, the only evil of sin is that of getting caught. Let us not look at sin in the eyes of the world. Let us look at it through the tear-dimmed eyes of Christ's Beloved Mother as she stood at the foot of the cross. Let us ask her to give us the grace to understand sin as she did and to hate it as she hated it. Sin, the murderer of her divine Son.

According to the Catechism, mortal sin is a serious offense against the law of God. There are three things necessary to make a sin mortal; serious matter, full knowledge and full consent of the will. You must measure the malice of the act not by the knowledge you have at present but by your knowledge at the time you did the act. If you know that an act will be mortal and you go ahead and do it you are actually guilty of mortal sin. Therein lies the malice of sin. We must be fully conscious and know what we are doing otherwise we are not guilty. Things done in sleep or in a semi-conscious state are not sinfull. Would that I had the tongue of an angel to tell you of the malice of sin. No mere man can tell you sufficiently of the malice of sin. There is only one discordant note in the harmony of the world and that is sin. Man in sin raises his proud head and refuses to obey. That is why the world is suffering so much today. Since Christ in His divine Majesty impresses us so little, let us see if the terrible punishments inflicted upon the sinner will not cause us to feel sorry and to beg of God the grace to give up sin forever. Let us view sin in the mirror of Christ's broken heart.

Come with me in spirit to the Garden of Agony. See there the Son of God weeping bitter, bloody tears. He understands what mortal sin is. The human heart Of Christ shrinks back from the suffering which sin is causing Him. The pure heart of Christ recoils from the sight of sin. See his struggle of human nature. His divine love surpasses His human nature and He cries out "Let this chalice pass from me, yet Thy will be done, not mine." Why does He endure this terrible ordeal? Out of love for us. See him in the scourging, His sacred flesh is torn and bruised, and His body one quivering mass. Why again does He permit all of this? In reparation for sin, especially for sins of impurity. If ever you have had the misfortune to lay sacrilegious hands upon your body, fall down now in sorrow and reparation and beg pardon of the suffering Christ.

Let us follow Christ through the sorrowful way of the cross. At the first station, Pilate condemns Him to death. Pilate is touched and realizes that He is innocent but he fears the anger of the Jews and he is too weak to do what he knows he should do. The Jews cry out: "Away with Him. His blood be upon us and upon our children." Do you realize that every time you or any other Catholic commits a mortal sin you renew this same scene. See too, how Barabas is chosen by the Jews in preference to Christ. Each time that you or any other Catholic commits a mortal sin you reject Christ and chose Barabas. What a sad rejection! Oh, the ingratitude of mortal sin. See Christ hanging upon cross in order to give His life up for love of us. He looks out over the crowd eager to find one sympathetic face and He finds no one. Oh, He feels the ingratitude of that moment. Where are all those whom He has helped, the blind to whom He gave sight, the deaf to whom He gave hearing, the dead whom He has risen to life? All have turned against Him now. You are here this afternoon full of life and health. God has blessed you with these splendid gifts. Do you realize the great love

for you in these gifts? When you sin you are like a beggar who throws back these gifts of God into the very face of God himself.

Some time ago a young girl was hurt in an accident. She was rushed immediately to the hospital and taken to the operating room. A young man was found in the corridor anxiously waiting for news of the girl. Upon being questiond as to whom he was, he said that he was the brother of the girl who had been hurt. The doctor permitted him to remain and said that he would give him news as soon as he could. After a while the doctor said that the girl needed a blood transfusion. Immediately the boy offered himself. His blood was tested and found to match that of the girls. So it was taken. When the doctor came back to see the boy later, the boy asked him: "Doctor, how before I have to die?" The doctor was dumbfounded and asked, "Do you mean to tell me that when you gave your blood for that girl that you thought you were going to give up your own life?" "Yes, certainly", answered the young man, "This girl is my little sister! I would do anything in the world for her. I would be glad to give my life for her."

Do you think that that girl could ever be mean or ugly to her brother in later life after all he had done for her? There is one who has given you more than a blood transfusion. Sin is the blackest ingratitude toward the Divine Saviour. Let us follow Christ as He begins His Via Dolorosa. He falls for the first time, crushed to the gound. No beast of burden was ever treated so cruelly as was Christ on His way to Calvary. The cross beckons Him on. The cross is waiting for Him, and must have a victim. As they reach Calvary, the soldiers tear off the garments of Christ. Oh, what an insult to the heart of Christ. Why does He suffer these cruel torments? He suffered them to be able to clothe man again with the garment of sanctifying grace. Christ is nailed to the cross. The nails are driven through the flesh and bones and there He hangs, beautiful in His degradation, adorable in His sacrifice. He hangs there as a victim of love. There we see the malice of sin in the flesh and bones of God. Man's lust has torn and crushed His mangled body. Man's malice has nailed Christ to the cross. Man's sin has tortured the dying Christ. Man's rebellion has plunged the soul of Christ into an ocean of dispair. Mortal sin is a murderer which claims man's soul. All is lost by a single mortal sin. Look up at your suffering Savior and beg of Him the grace never again to commit a mortal sin. If you ever have committed a mortal sin in your life, why is it you are here this afternoon making this retreat instead of being buried in hell? It is because God has loved you with an infinite love and wishes your soul to be happy with Him for ever. Go back in spirit over your entire life and see if there are any mortal sins. If so, resolve to make a good confession and after this retreat to start over again serving God in love and in faith, and in fear. Make up your mind never again to commit a mortal sin. Begin now to hate sin with your whole heart and soul. ^{For my} Thus will the habit of praying for sinners and particularly for those in their last agonies. There are 150,000 people who die every day and many of them are in the state of mortal sin. Pray daily for the agonized that they may have the grace to come back to God by a good confession before their death, so that they may be saved for all eternity.

I am going to tell you a story, now, of a young boy named Jimmy, who lived in Mattoon, Illinois. Jimmy was a good boy, but not very bright and he had a hard time in school. He lived alone with his old mother, who was a wonderful Christian and who loved her boy as all good mothers do. Jimmy lived near the church and every morning he went to serve Mass for the pastor, Father Higgins. When Jimmy was about fourteen or fifteen he decided that he couldn't do much in the small town in which he was living and as he wasn't doing much in school he felt that he should get away from home and go to another city and try to earn his living. He talked the matter over with Father Higgins and his mother and both consented to let him go. Jimmy went to Springfield which was not far from Mattoon and got a good position and was earning a good salary. He wrote regularly to his mother and each week sent her a check. After a while however, the mother received no news from Jimmy and there were no checks coming either. She tried in every way to find out where her boy was, but there was no word of him. She prayed and prayed that God would take care of her boy, for she knew that something must be wrong. In the mean time, Jimmy began to be careless about his religion and about the life that he was living. At this time, Bob Ingersol, the Atheist, was giving lectures in Springfield and was drawing away from God, many souls who had believed in Him. During one of his lectures, which Jimmy attended, Bob Ingersol told the people that they were foolish to believe in God, that there was no such person as God. In his audacity, he exclaimed, "If there is a God let Him destroy me this very minute." He stood before the crowd with a watch in hand and waited for the minute to pass; -at the end of the moment, he cried triumphantly to the crowd "See there is no God." Jimmy began now to believe as Ingersol did and he gave up the God of his youth and the God of his happy days. He became a slave of sin and a victim of the lowest social disease, syphilis. Finally one day he wrote to his mother and asked "Mother, may I come home?" The mother was delighted to hear from her boy again; but she realized when she saw him what sin had done to him during the years in which he was away from her. She tried to get him to see Father Higgins, but he refused. However, Father came and begged and pleaded with him to make his peace with God. Jimmy cursed and swore and told Father to leave him, that he wanted to die as he had lived. Father returned to Jimmy's mother and told her that it was useless, that there was nothing more now that could be done for Jimmy and that he would die in his sin. The Mother cried: "Why Father, how can you say such a thing? Are you, a priest, going to give up? I cannot believe that Mary the refuge of sinners, to whom I consecrated Jimmy as a baby, will refuse now to save his soul. Come back with me into his room and let us pray and beg of her to grant the grace of repentance." Together they returned to Jimmy's room and prayed as only a priest and a mother can pray. Finally, Jimmy's heart was touched and he begged Father to hear his confession. Father then brought the Blessed Sacrament and wished to give Jimmy Holy Communion. Jimmy, however, crawled out of bed, sick as he was, and knelt on the floor before the Sacred Host and cried: "Oh, Jesus I believe in Thee. Oh, Jesus I hope in Thee. Oh Jesus, I love Thee with all my heart. Oh Jesus, forgive my evil life!" He died shortly after receiving Holy Communion. His mother and Father Higgins, though deeply grieved over his death, were most grateful to our Blessed Mother for bringing back this lost sheep into the fold.

Conference Afternoon 3:30

DEATH

Retreat, as we said this morning is a time of thought. One of the thoughts which must come to us at the time of the retreat, is the thought of death. It is appointed unto man once to die and after death the judgment. Yes, we must all die. The dismal hearse which goes through our streets, cries out to each one of us: "Today for me and tomorrow for you." The bony fingers of the corpses in our cemeteries cry out to us: "Remember, man, dust thou art and unto dust thou shalt return." Our own beloved dear seem to say to us, "Remember man, as you pass by, what you are now, I once was. What I am now you will soon be."

What is your attitude toward death? Are you afraid of death? Prepare now and be not afraid.

Death is the dividing and the deciding live. It is the end and the beginning. We must all come to the end of the journey of life. When the doctor, at your death bed, turns and says to your dear ones, "She is dead!" Eternity will begin for you. Be your life a tragedy or a comedy, death is facing you just the same. Our lives are like clocks, wound up by the hand of the Almighty, to ring at a certain time. Death will come to each and every one of us. It may come at a moment least expected. At a time when we are unprepared. Think of the many accidents and the sudden deaths in our large cities. Woe to those who meet death unprepared! Death is the end of sin, a time of reckoning, to come for all us. A short time ago, there was an accident in Chicago, two young couples returning home in the early hours of the morning, had been struck by a railway train, and all were killed. Liquor was found in the car. It told it's own sad story. What an awful thing at the moment of death to be hurled before God in such a manner.

Death is the end of sin, the end of time and the end of misery. Many have come, ^{like} to God, like the good thief, crawling in at the last moment. Time is most valuable. God gives just one moment after another. Learn to use your time well. Days pass quickly into weeks, weeks into months, and months into years. Then your life will have ended.

A short time ago a priest was attending a man who was dying. He tried to incite the man to sorrow for sin and to prepare him for death. He asked the man if he were afraid to die, the man answered: "No, I am not afraid to die, but I am ashamed to die." What would be your answer to the same question, were it put to you now? Could you answer "I am not afraid to die"? Could you expect to receive the words from Christ: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant"? Death is also a deciding line. It is the beginning of eternity, that endless existence which we are all to have. Death is the door to eternity. When will you die? It would be interesting to know. You don't know if you will live until graduation time, you don't know even if you will live till Christmas, yes, you don't know if you will live even unto the end of this retreat. Not long ago a retreat master had given a sermon on death and he had told the people that the next sermon was to be on Judgment. After he had finished his conference, he left the sactuary

and upon entering the sacristy, he fell down dead. That was the best sermon on death the retreatants could ever have had. We never know when God may call us. We do not know where, whether at home, in the streets, in an auto, in the train or where.

How will you die? It matters little when or where but it does matter much how you will die. Will you die as a good Catholic, or God forbid, will you die in mortal sin? Death is the echo of life, as you live so will you die. My own father died when I was only 13 years of age. I could always remember his attitude toward death. When asked about leaving this world, he smiled and answered: "No, I am not afraid of death. I am willing to go." What a beautiful end to a beautiful life. Let us live our lives well, so that we can always say "I am willing to go." Let us not be traitors to Christ. Not long ago a young Catholic girl who had always led a beautiful life began to go astray, she was keeping company with a divorced man. One day she suddenly became ill and was taken to the hospital. It was believed that she would not recover. Finally in answer to the prayers of her father and mother and of the pastor, an old-time friend of the family, she made a sort of confession and made her peace with God. Her mother, father and her little sister together with the pastor were all praying by her bedside, for the grace of a happy death for her. Suddenly the divorced man, who had heard of her illness, rushed into the room. Immediately all her impure love for him returned. The priest seeing the struggle that was going on within her, held up the crucifix before her and begged her to remain faithful to God. She knocked the crucifix to the floor crying "I'll take him; if I must go to hell for him!" She died as she had lived, in mortal sin. What an awful thing to live in sin. Many live in sin for days, for months or for years. If you are in mortal sin, you are actually hanging over the bottomless pit of hell. Cut that thread and you will go face down to hell.

How can we secure for ourselves the grace of a good death? First, remove the sting of death by removing mortal sin, from our lives forever. What a sorrow it is to make bad confessions and to keep back the sins committed. The dumb devil forces one to make bad confessions and then to make a sacrilegious communion. He puts one to shame at the hour of judgment. If there is anyone here today, who is in the state of mortal sin, look up now to your Savior and promise him that you confess your sin and that henceforth you will to all you can to avoid it. Do not be afraid to come to confession. All you have to do is to say: "Father, I have been making bad confessions", and I shall do all in my power to help you make a good confession and to cleanse your soul from sin. After that keep sin out of your life all together. Keep the thought of death ever before your mind and you will not sin. Make this meditation practical. Every morning when you arise offer your day to Christ by saying: "All for Thee o' Jesus. One more day for Heaven." What a consolation it will be to you to look back to November 1941 and to recall that at this time you made a good confession and made your peace with God and that from this time on you kept your soul free from sin. We are making the reel of our own lives. Let us be conscious of that. Let us spend every day well and we won't need to be afraid of judgment. A young boy of eighteen was once leading a very careless life, his mother warned him to watch what he was doing but he paid no attention to her. One day she asked him to go over to see the priest

but he refused. She told him he was afraid to go. This angered him a little and to prove that he wasn't afraid, he said he would go. He called for the priest at the monastary parlor and merely told him that his mother had sent him over to see him and since he had seen him that was all he had to do. The priest however called him back and asked if he would do him a favor. The boy said yes he would. He was going to a party that evening and no doubt would get in at the wee, small hours of the morning. The priest told him upon his return to light four candles and to put one on each corner of the bed posts. Then to turn out all the lights in the room and to say out loud these words: "If I die tonight, I will be buried in hell!" The priest asked him to do this four times. The boy was rather surprised at the request, but he said he would and so he determined to do it. He arrived home late in the morning and before getting into bed, he thought of his promise, so he did as the priest requested him. He turned out all the lights and then lit the candles and began the words: "If I die tonight, I will be buried in hell!" The first time he said the words, they didn't make much impression on him. The second time, however, there was something uncanny in his voice and he began to shiver. Then he began to realize that what he was saying was true. He started the third time: "If I die tonight, I will be buried---" but he couldn't finish. He jumped out of bed, dressed quickly and ran to the monastary and called for Father. When the priest came down to see him, he found a boy looking most terrified. "What is the matter, my son. Why are you coming at this hour of the morning?" "Father for God's sake hear my confession" cried the boy. Then he ended by making his confession and by making peace with God.

We need help to keep us from sin and to secure for ourselves the grace of a happy death. Go to our Blessed Mother for help. Do you realize that every time you say the Hail Mary, you are asking Mary to help you at the hour of your death. Let us say the Hail Mary in the future, with our whole heart and our whole soul. What a consolation to realize that at the moment of our death, Mary our Mother will be there to welcome us home. Let us imitate St. Joseph, let us live like him, close to Jesus and to Mary. Death will not then be a cause of fear for us. It will be the end of suffering and the commencement exercise for a good student. It will be the going home to dad for a good school boy. Let us imitate the Saints. Look at the life of the Little Flower, she had an awful death, physically. She suffered terribly and almost choked to death. She begged God to take her. Evening came and she revived and she seemed to see a vision. She cried out: "My God I love Thee!" and then she breathed her last. What kind of a death will you prefer. Do now what you may not have time to, at the moment of death. Live a good life. Remember there are 150,000 people who die every day. Pray daily for the dying sinners. "Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul'."

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 27, 1941

First Morning Conference - 9:15

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

Well begun is half done. The opening day of the retreat is always a heavy one and very difficult. Let us resolve today to renew our interest in the retreat and to make a good beginning. Let us resolve to make it a perfect day. Let us turn to the right and keep on going. Sign posts along the road are guides for the safety of travelers. The commandments of God and of the Church are sign posts of safety for us on our way to heaven. As confessions will be heard during the day, let us examine ourselves on the commandments, and of how we have fulfilled them. The commandments of God are real laws and not mere penal ordinance of civil government.

FIRST COMMANDMENT:

"I am the Lord thy God, thou shalt not have strange gods before Me."

The first commandment forbids idolatry in all its forms. In America there are over sixty million people who do not believe in God. America worships the almighty dollar and the golden calf. We should worship God by faith, hope and charity. The first commandment forbids superstition, fortune telling and all all false worship of God. We often forget to accuse ourselves in confession of sins against the first commandment. Many people see no harm in going to fortune tellers and try to make themselves believe that they do not believe in fortune telling. However, the opposite is certainly the truth. Avoid spiritualism and Christian Science, these are both against the first commandment.

SECOND COMMANDMENT:

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain."

The second commandment forbids the profanation of God's holy name. To use God's name irreverently is not a mortal sin, it is usually only a venial sin. Would a child go out and use the name of his parents in anger? Is there any more reason why God's holy name should be used in anger? The second commandment forbids all cursing and swearing and false oaths. Cursing and swearing are "explosive expletives." If you get into the habit of cursing material objects, you may end by cursing people. There was once a mother who cursed her children and this curse remained with them throughout their lives. One of them lost his sight, another his hearing, another became insane and the fourth was killed in an accident. What a terrible thing for a mother to curse her own children.

One day a good Irishman named Pat got into a street car and he was feeling pretty good and he began cheering, first for Saint Patrick and then for Ireland. "Three cheers for St. Patrick! Three cheers for Ireland!" One of the passengers became angry and told Pat to stop. The man himself made this remark, "Three cheers for the devil! Three cheers for hell!" Pat answered him as follows: "Everyman for his own country!" Girls particularly should beware of cursing and swearing, you should use refined and lady-like language. Try to get out of the

habit of using slang, slang is merely bad grammar. Some years ago, a young man was about to undergo an operation which would render him dumb for the rest of his life. Before the operation, doctors told him that he would never again be able to speak and they asked if there was no some message that he wished to leave or some final words which he wished to say. He answered "Yes" and these were the last words: "Praised be Jesus Christ now and forever, Amen!"

THIRD COMMANDMENT:

"Remember thou keep holy the Sabbath day!"

The third command forbids us to miss Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, and to abstain from all unnecessary servile work. In order to fulfill our obligation of hearing Mass we must be present at the three principal parts, the Offertory, the Consecration and the Communion. Make it a point of honor to be on time for Mass. It is irreverent to disturb others by coming in late. The youth of our day are soft in regard to attending Mass. Apply ordinary common sense in the use of your time on Sunday. You can study, you can do spiritual work, painting, crocheting etc., but you cannot do actual necessary servile work.

FOURTH COMMANDMENT:

"Honor thy father and thy mother!"

The fourth commandment forbids all disobedience and disrespect toward our parents and lawful superiors. Never be ugly, mean or disrespectful to your parents. Obey, love and respect them at all times. There is a great feeling of independence in our young people of the present day, and a great deal of rebelling against authority. Recognize that all authority comes from God and that in obeying authority, you are obeying Almighty God himself.

FIFTH COMMANDMENT:

"Thou shalt not kill!"

The fifth commandment forbids all murder, anger, hatred, jealousy and quarreling. Jealousy is a green-eyed monster which ruins your happiness. Rejoice with others when they succeed. Overcome a spirit of selfish jealousy. Scandal is luring another into sin and directly teaching others to commit sin. Scandal may be indirect also. Giving bad example is a way of doing so. We owe it to each other to give good example. The older students can do much to give a good moral tone to a school. Examine what your influence on others may be.

SIXTH AND NINTH COMMANDMENTS:

"Thou shalt not commit adultery! Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife!"

I shall give a special conference on these two commandments later in the day.

J. M. J.

Italy Family Academy
Beaverville, Ill
Nov. 12/41

Respectfully yours
Father Aloysius, Rector.

Manistee, Ill.

Respectful and dear Father:

Enclosed is one
dollar for a mass stipend for
our deceased Mother General.
Would it be possible to have
the mass on Sat. Nov. 15th =
feast of our Lady of Providence.

I had a very pleasant visit
at Manistee where I enjoyed
the religious atmosphere of
silence which denotes a

SEVENTH AND TENTH COMMANDMENTS:

"Thou shalt not steal! Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods!"

The seventh and tenth commandments forbid all stealing or unlawful desires of possessing what belongs to another. There are such people in the world as kleptomaniacs, who cannot help but steal. It doesn't pay to steal, as you have to give back everything that you take. Be honest even though you are poor, pay your lawful debts, don't live beyond your means. Remember that in order to obtain absolution, you have to resolve to make restitution, and everything that you have taken must be given back.

EIGHTH COMMANDMENT:

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor!"

The eighth commandment commands us to speak the truth in all things and to be careful of the honor and reputation of everyone. It forbids all rash judgment, back-biting, slander and lies. The so called white lies are sometimes pretty black. A lie is a lie and a contradiction of the truth.

Second Conference at 11:20

CONFESSiON

A good confession forms an integral part of a good retreat. It is a great consolation to know that after we have sinned, there is still a means of saving our soul. In confession, we receive the entire forgiveness of all our sins. We do not fully appreciate this favor because we do not realize fully the great malice of sin. If we could see mortal sin as a soul damned in hell sees it, or if we could see venial sin as a soul who is suffering in purgatory sees it, or if we could see it as we will see it at the hour of our death, we would realize its terrible malice. Appreciate the gift of confession by using it well and frequently. The first thing to do to make a good confession, is to pray to the Holy Spirit for grace to know our conscience and to shine as an electric light to see our souls as they really are. Actually examine your conscience sincerely, play a fair game. Be accurate and specific in confession, call a spade a spade and not something else. It is a pleasure to a priest to hear an educated person confess. He knows just what to do. It is no pleasure for a priest to try to pull elephant's teeth in the confessional. The most important part of confession is contrition, the sorrow for our sins. Spend most of your time in preparing for confession upon inciting yourself to contrition. Know well the difference between perfect and imperfect contrition. The difference is one of motive. In perfect contrition we are sorry for our sins because of our love for God, and in imperfect contrition, we are sorry because of the punishment that our sin deserves. It is a case of love versus fear. Perfect contrition alone is sufficient to remit mortal sin, however the obligation remains that one must confess that sin in the next confession. In case of death, an act of perfect contrition

will remit the guilt of sin, ~~and save the soul.~~

The following story is a splendid illustration of the beautiful practice of saying an act of contrition every night before going to bed. One night during the middle of the night, a young boy came to the rector of the boarding school and surprised the rector with these words: "Father Rector, I have come to thank you for having told me never to go to bed without making an act of perfect contrition. Last night before I went to bed, I made an act of contrition. During the night, God came to get my soul. If you go to the dormitory, you will find my ^{dead} body in my bed. I have merely come back now to thank you for having told me about this practice, for it has meant my salvation." The boy immediately disappeared and the surprised rector went to the dormitory and found the dead body of the boy. It was still warm. Learn a lesson from this example and resolve always to make an act of contrition before you go to bed at night.

Contrition for sin includes also a firm purpose of amendment, a firm resolution to do better, to turn away from the occasion of sin and to turn over a new leaf. "We should be willing to quit" the occasion of sin. No doubt you will fall back into the same temptations and into the same sins, but if you are resolved at the moment of confession to give them up, then your confession is good.

In confession, make an open, sincere confession of your own sins. Do not confess the sins of others. Listen carefully to the penance which is given you and say it as soon as possible. A good practice is to say it immediately after confession. After confession, breathe a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the grace of a good confession. Our Lord is sensitive upon this point-gratitude. A confession is a greater miracle than the curing of the corporal leprosy.

A general confession may be necessary or useful. It is necessary if one has been making bad confessions. It is a repetition of one or more confessions of our past life. Since you know that you have deliberately concealed a mortal sin in confession, you are bound to repeat this confession as it was a bad one. A general confession will be harmful for many people especially if they are scrupulous and it is better for such people not to make them. It is a good thing in our ordinary confessions to specify one particular sin. Our ordinary confessions are much too general. If we try to correct ourselves of our faults, it would be well to lay stress upon one fault each week, and gradually we would rid ourselves of our faults.

Conference Afternoon 2:00

PURITY

A boy or girl's greatest treasure is purity. Purity is the foundation of physical strength, of mental vigor and of moral stamina. How shall we lead a pure life in a sex mad world? First of all, watch and pray. Realize the danger and understand temptation. Ignorance in

this matter is not bliss. Ignorance may be a source of irritating scruples all of your life. In the matter of purity we should be wise as a serpent and innocent as a dove.

Impurity is the abuse of the body for the sake of sexual pleasures. Note well, I say abuse of the body. The correct use of one's body in married life is no sin. The entire body is sacred. Our Lord himself was a perfect man, born of a virgin. Mary was a perfect woman born in the natural way. God has given to man strong urges or emotions; the most important of these is the instinct for life. One who over eats or over drinks is abusing this natural good instinct. Another strong instinct of man is that of reproduction. There is a keen and perpetual pleasure attached to the use of the sex organs. In a way it is a sort of reward which God has given to married people for the great responsibility that they assume. If this is done outside the married life, then you have the abuse of the body or impurity. You should know the meaning of the various organs, and the origin of life. There is nothing wrong in knowing this. Be careful, however, where you secure the information; get it from your parents, your teachers, or from a good book. Avoid getting it from bad companions.

In order to safe guard your purity, take good care of your body, cleanliness is next to Godlessness. To preserve your purity, use all means possible, both natural and supernatural. First of all, keep your selfrespect. Your body is your best friend and is a life-long friend. The agony of death consists of the separation of the soul from the body, a separating of two life-long friends. Your body came from your mother at the cost of great pain. God has given many graces to your body, in the different sacraments. In Baptism, when you were made a child of God, in Confirmation when you were made a soldier of Christ and in Holy Communion in which you received the body of Christ, and which makes of you a living ciborium as the womb of Mary, in Extreme Unction when your body is prepared for death. Our bodies will rise again on the last day and they will be beautiful if we have kept them so during life. We should also use the supernatural means, we should watch and pray. Watch over your mind, watch over the approach of danger. Be noble in your thoughts. Watch the approach of your thoughts, watch your senses. We have the protection of our senses to help us keep our bodies pure. Our eyes are called the windows of the soul, through our eyes man looks out at the world, through our eyes the world looks into our souls. Screen your soul to keep away the insects of sin. Watch your reading, as bad books are the devil's workshop. It is sad to see our young girls particularly in our street cars, elevateds, and bus lines reading the sexy, sensational books and novels. Through them the devil is planting the seeds of sin in our souls. All of these cause the abuse of man's noblest faculty, his mind. You wouldn't eat rotten bread, rancid butter, or molded meat, why then read such filth and dirt and permit it to poison your heart and soul? It is better for you to burn these bad books and magazines than for them to be the cause of your burning in after life. "A pamphlet a day keeps the devil away."

We have now many wonderful pamphlets on the market, which can be carried easily and which are very fine reading. Avoid smutty, dirty language. Certainly the lips which one day will be the lips of a mother should not be soiled by dirty, filthy language. Try to start a crusade

among your companions for better language. Be Christian, be a child of Mary. Avoid dirty stories, avoid listening to them or repeating them. Have as much respect for your mind as you do for your bodies.

Watch also your companions as association with others means much to us in forming our ideals for life. Since you are now in school, give your attention to your school work. Be an honest-to-goodness boy or girl and be a student. Love and study do not mix. Do not be in a hurry, girls, as the boys will cause you enough trouble later on. Take one thing at a time and leave your love affairs until you are out of school. There is a sickness we call "love-itis" which is most common among high school boys and girls. You can recognize its symptoms by the following: incapacity to concentrate, restlessness at night and poor school work. A beautiful face causes a period of thrills and chills. The best cure for love-it is a "good dose of common sense, a strict diet of dates and a good rub down by Dad twice a week." Be sensible in your relationship with each other and don't run wild. Remember that there is such a thing as purity.

The question is frequently asked, "is kissing a sin?". No, if it is done in the right manner, kissing is not a sin, but it must remain the sign of love and not of lust. Girls, do not be cheap and ship-worn. You'll never be sorry for being reserved. Remember you are your brother's keeper. You do not know the tremendous influence of a good girl and the great evil of a bad girl. Usually the girls are at fault. During the World War, many boys were preserved from corruption by the lockets of their girlfriends, their sweethearts and their mothers. They tried to be 100% man for their sakes. Girls, keep the boys in their places and train them to respect you. Watch and pray. Purity is not an unnatural thing, it is a supernatural thing. Dare to be different, first out of love for Christ, the Lover of pure souls. Secondly in imitation of the virgin of virgins. Surround your soul with a hedge of selfsacrifice. In the olden days, people looked upon the vestal virgins with great love and esteem. If one of them, however fell and broke her vow, she was buried alive. She was put in an open grave with a lighted candle, a loaf of bread and a glass of water. Imagine the terrible remorse of such a girl. In the Christian era, such a one is not buried hopelessly. In confession, she can start over and begin a new life. Look forward to the future as wife and mother. Now is the time to sow the seeds of purity and virtue in your soul. Watch and pray that you enter not into temptation. Purity is your greatest treasure. You'll have more happiness and success in life if you carry your purity into your married life. "Blessed are the pure of spirit for they shall see God!"

Conference Afternoon 3:30

PURITY

This same sermon was repeated at this conference for the benefit of the public high school boys and girls.

J. M. J.

Holy Family Academy
Beavererville, Illinois
November 31, 1941

Dominus tecum!
Reverend Father.

Since it is unlikely that we shall have an occasion for conversation, may I make the request, provided you find it convenient, to come for confession Tuesday morning, November twenty-sixth, rather than this Saturday.

Thank you so much for all your kindness, and please pray much for me. - I feel more than ever I am a stumbling block to souls. In sinc. patris
St. Mary Melchior

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1941

First Morning Conference - 9:15

NATURE AND PURPOSE OF RETREAT

At the opening of a retreat, it is customary to ask ourselves certain questions. What is a retreat? Why should we make a retreat? How should we make a retreat?

What is a retreat? It is a time of rest, of prayer and of thought, it is a time of rest both for the body and the soul. A hard working student needs a rest; and a poor working student enjoys a rest. In time of retreat, the soul should be at peace if he wishes to hear the voice of the Lord speaking to him. The Lord does not come in a whirlwind or a tornado - He comes as a gentle breeze. The retreat is a time of thought - thought about ourselves. How do I stand in the sight of God? Am I better now than I was a year ago? Was my year a success or a failure? Have I developed as my parents and my teachers have expected that I would, into a fine, honorable and lovable character? The retreat is a time of thought for the future, a time of thought for the most interesting things in life. Thought of God, our Creator, our Redeemer, thought of heaven. Retreat is also a time of prayer. Let us during the retreat say all our prayers well; let us not rattle them off as perhaps we have been doing; let us say them with our whole heart and soul.

Why should we make a retreat? A retreat is most important for young people of your age for youth is the time when the seeds of virtue are planted in the soul. When a tree is full grown, it cannot be straightened out, if it is crooked. A young twig or branch can be bent or twisted as desired. If you are crooked now, the retreat is the time to straighten yourself out. Did you ever happen to bite into a nice red apple and find that you bit into a worm? If a man finds that the apples in his orchard are wormy, what does he do? He has the trees sprayed to get rid of the worms. So too, you in retreat can spray your souls with the antiseptic of God's grace. A retreat is always useful and sometimes necessary. Take the example of a good house-keeper. She is not satisfied with the ordinary daily or weekly cleaning of the house; no, she takes a special time yearly to give the house a thorough inspection and cleaning. No matter how careful she has been during the year, dust accumulates and gathers about. So you, too, need a yearly house cleaning of your soul. God wishes it of you. You are living in a world and the dust of worldliness gets into your soul. Some of our Catholics make a detour in the path of life. They don't understand the commandments; they argue with the priest on their duties; they refuse to submit their will to that of God. Take the moral evils of the world to-day, birth control, divorce, broken homes, etc. Where do people get all these ideas? Certainly not through the sermons of the priest on Sunday. Take advantage, then, of these days of retreat offered to you. A retreat is the gentle breeze of Almighty God to blow away the dust of the world. You may be the unfortunate victim of sin. The retreat comes to give you a chance to start over again.

How should I make the retreat? There are only two making the retreat - you and Almighty God. God does the broadcasting. The priest is only the instrument. God wants to speak to your soul. Listen to Him. To do this you must keep silence. "Mum's the word." They say it is impossible for girls and women to keep silence; however it has been done. Repeat the miracle here.

NOTES ON STUDENTS' ANNUAL RETREAT

S T. PATRICK ACADEMY

MOMENCE, ILL.

NOVEMBER 26, 27, 28, 1941

RETREAT MASTER - REV. LEANDER CONLEY, O.F.M.

Our Lady Academy
Manteno, Illinois

Nov. 27, 1941

Dear Father:

Enclosed you will find ten dollars which my cousin, Mr. Kehoe asked me to give you for Masses. Five are to be said for the souls in Purgatory and five are to be said in thanksgiving for a grace he received.

I was a little disappointed

today; I really thought you would come this week, just before Advent. I planned on submitting my plans for Advent to you but I will just presume that my plans are alright until I see you.

Are you planning on making Father Julien our ordinary confessor instead of extra-ordinary?

I prayed very much for you on Tuesday. He seemed to ask this of me.

Gratefully yours, Sister Agnes

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28, 1941

First Morning Conference - 9:15

PRAYER

All's well that ends well. Today is the last day of your retreat. The last day of your spiritual vacation. The last day, in reality if the most important of all, for on the last day, we refuel or prepare ourselves for another year's trip. We hope that you will be a better boy or a better girl by next November. Use every moment of this day to gain new strength for the coming year. In order to persevere in your good resolutions, use the means of grace. One of the most important means is that of prayer. Prayer is the raising of our minds and hearts to God. In order to pray well, we must keep our minds on what we are saying, we must remember that there is someone on the side lines who is not a spectator but who is most interested in each and every one of us. Prayer is supernatural, that is above natural and it requires exertion on our part. It is human to be distracted. There is another explanation of distraction and that is that we don't love God sufficiently. Were you ever homesick? Look back at the time when you first came to boarding school and a home-sick spell came over you. Why were you home-sick? It was because you loved your home. Are you ever home-sick for God? It is a proof that you do not love Him as you should. You need prayer to sustain your innocence and your prayer needs to be safe guarded. Let us call on our Heavenly Holy Father each morning by long distance phone and beg of Him to send our Guardian Angels to watch over us during the day. There are many qualities which our prayer should have. First of all it should be sincere. You must mean what you say and your prayer must come from your heart. There are times during your life when you have prayed with sincerity. If you were in great danger, if you were dying or during a thunderstorm. At those times you really meant what you said. Secondly, our prayer should be characterized by simplicity. There is too much red-tape about our prayers. Many of us read prayers from books too much. It is better to pray to God in your own words. Remain child-like in your attitude to God, but not childish. We should pray with confidence in God's goodness: "Yea, Lord, I believe-----". Let us generate more faith in our prayers. Often we ourselves do not expect our prayers to be answered. If we had more faith and confidence in the things we ask of God, we would receive greater graces from Him. We should pray with resignation. Just as a mother will not give a child everything he wants, so too, God will often refuse us the things we ask for because He knows that it would not be good for us. If you would live, practice resignation to God's holy will and become a saint. "Lord thy will not mine be done!" As crosses come your way during life, unite them with that of Christ. In the Agony, He implored your Heavenly Father to accept your sacrifice united to that of Christ. We should pray with perseverance. St. Monica is a wonderful example of the rewards gained through perseverance in prayer. For eighteen years, she prayed for the conversion of her wayward boy and her prayer was heard. The Church gained one of its greatest Saints. I know of a woman who prayed for forty years for the grace of conversion of her mother and father so that they might come back to their God. Her prayers were finally heard. Don't give up if your prayer is not answered immediately. Keep on praying and begging. Remember the example of the women in the Gospel whose daughter

was possessed of the devil. God didn't seem to hear her, but finally He couldn't resist her ardent fervor and her supplications. "Woman" He answered "great is thy faith. Be it done according to thy wishes!" and her daughter was cured immediately. We should also pray with a child like faith and confidence in our Blessed Mother. Let us realize that all graces come to us through her and that she can obtain from her Divine Son all that she wishes for each and every one of us. Be careful to, to pray at the right time. We should pray every morning and every evening. We should also remember our prayers at meal time. The more we pray and the more we love God, the happier we'll be. Let us not forget devotion to the Holy Spirit, for of the three persons in the Blessed Trinity, ~~He~~ it is the one most neglected. Let us remember that the Holy Spirit is our spiritual director. He changed the Apostles to valiant soldiers of Christ. Pentecost is a living reality. The Holy Spirit wishes to work in your souls and to give you his gifts. He'll direct you and give you strength and courage to find out what your vocation is and the grace to be faithful to it. Persecution may come even during ~~your~~ life time and if you have been faithful to prayer, God will give you the grace to remain faithful to Him. Pray also for the conversion of sinners. Pray for the souls for whom Christ gave His life. The greatest missionary of modern times was not a man, but a young woman, the Little Flower of Jesus. St. Theresa had a priestly soul. Imitate her and work with me or another priest as a co-missionary for the salvation of souls. You can become a missionary by the apostolate of prayer, work and suffering. All you need to do is to offer your life or a certain part of your life with all your work, suffering, prayers and study for the intention of any priest of your choice. I would appreciate any who may wish to be joined with me in my great work for the salvation of souls. I already have six thousand co-workers with me in my work and many great ^{and} graces they have obtained for me. Frequently God gives me the grace to do good to souls because of the sacrifice and beautiful lives of my co-missionaries. Every missionary priest feels, that with an army behind him, he can do much for God and for the salvation of souls. Do not forget to offer the Rosary, the Stations of the Cross, ejaculations and other prayers as well as your work for this intention.

Second Conference 11:20

CHARACTER FORMATION

There is one thing absolutely necessary in life and that is to possess an honorable and noble character. Character is life dominated by principles. First of all, know what these principles are or should be and secondly, live them. Remove from your life, all false tones of character. The fundamental false tone of character is selfconceit and overwhelming pride. Such people think they know it all. People from fifteen to twenty-five think they are infallible. When they reach the age of thirty, they begin to give others some credit for what they know and when they reach the age of forty, they realize how little they actually knew and they begin to learn something. Young people very often look upon their parents as old-fashioned and their teachers as old fogies and their retreat master as an old fossil. Be willing to learn and to admit that you don't know everything. Give credit to others for having some knowledge of things. Another false tone of character is that of human respect, "what will the gang say?" There are more sins committed out of fear of human respect

J. M. J.

Our Lady Academy
Manteno, Illinois
November 30, 1941.

Dear Reverend Father:

Following is my program for Advent which I submit for your approval, as I am desirous of doing all under obedience. A bit tardy, I admit.

Resolved: I will lead an intensely interior life by Silence with the Word Incarnate. Silence of Mind, Tongue and Heart, as expressed in the circular letter of our Reverend Mother for Advent.

However, as I have been endeavoring to inculcate this silence in my daily life heretofore, I shall center my efforts upon this: "Silence every useless, idle thought". I seem to be most wanting on this point. As Our Lord told Benigna "There is a virginity of spirit as well as of body--If one of My spouses dwells on useless thoughts, she is guilty of robbery toward Love which would be an injury to virginity." On this point I am putting forth earnest persistent effort. My failures are numberless, but with each failure I humbly admit my fruitless effort, and I know that when I am sufficiently immersed in my nothingness, He will uplift me. I am making a storm novena in union with the Most Holy Trinity to our Blessed Mother in preparation for the feast of the Immaculate Conception. The special grace I am asking for is "Virginity of Spirit". Perhaps you will chime in a word of petition for me too, please?

To help foster recollection and the interior life, I am taking for Advent practice "to repress every useless or unnecessary movement". This mortification I offer as my adoration and love of the Incarnate Word, and in praise of Mary, Mother Immaculate.

In chanting the Office I intermittently unite with the Blessed Trinity in Its complacency and praise of the Incarnate Word and Mary, and union with Mary in adoration and love - and sometimes I unite myself with the whole celestial court. I made a novitiate promise that I would say my Office with the utmost devotion and attention as an act of reparation for those who do not love it or recite it thus. During this Advent I shall endeavor to atone for my negligence on this point.

I desire with increased ardor that God live in me, and by me. And that this may be so, my heart must be emptied of all that is not Him. This is a real task for poor human nature, but as I have yielded myself to the mercy of love, and promised to give Him my little one-fourth - "fidelity and love" then I know I can rely on Him for the other $99\frac{3}{4}$. Our Blessed Mother's counsel to Benigna for Greater Perfection was: "Yield yourself to the mercy of love, talk little with creatures and much with God, and from the heart." In preparation for Christmas I am saying this ejaculation: "Divine Infant King come and be born in my heart and substitute Thyself in my stead". I really desire this - that He substitute Himself for me. The thought has come to me perhaps that is too sublime for one so little advanced, but if it is wrong - you will tell me please.

Wednesday is the 21st anniversary of my First Holy Communion, I am asking God for an increase of Love - a deep, real love for Him, that will give Him full liberty of action always and especially in the hour of supreme sacrifice.

My prayers for a very holy Advent. Please pray for me -His neediest needy child.

Respectfully,

*Sister Mary of the
Precious Blood*

J. M. J.

Our Lady Academy
Manteno, Illinois
December 5, 1941.

Dear Reverend Father:

Several weeks ago I spoke to you about being a Co-Missionary, at which time I stated I wished to consider the matter further. I had thought to speak to you about this when you were here last, but did not wish to take up more time, and then in this way you can have time to consider, too, before giving your approval or non-approval.

As you said I am already a co-Missionary but as there is no correspondence connected with this it interests me. I think my adopting a missionary will stimulate my zeal. To express myself more fully, I would like to adopt three in honor of the most Blessed Trinity. Is this too daring, I think not. If three can be helped in a special way instead of one then why not? This won't prevent me from having all missionaries and souls in mind. As I have offered and given over to my Immaculate Mother Mary all my merits and good works, I do not wish to offer special days for this end. I will ask her to take care of their needs when and as she sees fit. Do you think that advisable?

Further this is my desire: To adopt one by joining the Co-Missionary Apostolate at Techny. (A missionary in the Chinese missions if any choice is given) As a child I was much attracted to the Chinese Missions - it was my dream to work among them, and now my dream can be realized in a manner I never thought of.

My second missionary I wish to be a Claretian - to be chosen by you as the Holy Spirit may inspire or direct you. In connection with this it is my wish to be unknown.

My third missionary I wish to be a Holy Ghost Father- this I can handle through Reverend Mother or perhaps Father Haeger.

I spoke to Reverend Mother when she was here and she approves of being a Co-Missionary, so you need fear nothing there, except this that we must do nothing that will disable or unfit us for our duties.

I feel very foolish for writing this, and if I followed my inclinations right down this page would be riddled to pieces. Our Blessed Mother told Benigna to watch for the Divine action in all. Since I have written the above with permission, I leave the rest to your decision. I ask only that His holy will be done! Please pray for me.

I wish you to know that the practice you gave me for the recitation of the Angelus is proving very helpful to me.

My prayerful wishes for a holy Advent.

Respectfully,

Sister Mary

J. M. J.

Holy Family Academy

Beavererville, Illinois

December 12, 1941

Dear Father Aloysius:

You will rejoice to hear that the Sacred Heart has made a public appeal in our parish. This is what happened. Our annual Forty Hours were held later than usual so that the closing day coincided with the First Sunday of Advent. Father based his instructions on the three principal revelations of St. Margaret Mary reproaching the people with their coldness and indifference and finishing with a special appeal for gratitude and reparation and the enthronement of the Sacred Heart in homes on Advent Sunday. It was the first public appeal in keeping with the message of the Holy Father last year. Several thought Reverend

Mother, Sr. M. Mediator or I, or — someone had specifically coached Father. He had not, — but the best of "Coaches," the Holy Spirit, had done so and we rejoiced that the cause of Merciful Love was being furthered. Three statements made by the missionary were identical with phrases in a private message received by the Pastor ^(the Pastor) some time ago. He seemed uneasy.

This public appeal was all the more striking in that it seemed to be a divine retaliation, if one may so express it, for the public denunciation made of our privileged one before the assembled Community in our Convent Chapel because she pronounced by divine revelation that a Host found in church was consecrated. I presume you know the details of this.

I wish to thank you Father, for having acknowledged the Mass stipend and also for the leaflet on devotion to the Infant Jesus of Prague. May I count on your

J.m.J.

HOLY FAMILY ACADEMY
BEAVERVILLE, ILLINOIS

December 24, 1941

Dear Father Aloysius:

He would appreciate so much
your saying Mass for our beloved Sister Mary
Mediatrix during the Christmas octave. Only
the Holy Sacrifice can adequately express our

gratitude for all she has done and merited for us.

I am under the impression of having made a similar request with regard to our dear Mother Provincial. Should I have failed to send the stipend kindly advise me of the fact.

With every good wish for a most happy Christmas in union with Mary and her Little One,

most peacefully yours in J. D. J. T.